OPINION / A10

Fr. Jerry Orbos: In the Rotary's 4-Way Test, note that the primary question is about truthfulness, and the last is about being beneficial. If we were to follow Jesus as our leader, we must, as He did, put truth above expediency

SPORTS / A23

Bacolod girls enter Junior League World Series finals in Washington

NEWS / A16

New petition from nursing professionals seeks to invalidate oaths taken by 2,000 successful examinees of tainted nursing licensure examinations before Court of Appeals TRO

Man with 2 organs just wants normal sex life

NEW DELHI—AN INDIAN businessman born with two penises wants one of them removed surgically as he wants to marry and lead a normal sexual life, a newspaper report said on Saturday.

MAN/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, August 20, 2006 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 253 P18

RP sends SOS on oil spill

US, Japan, Indon help sought on 'unimaginable' disaster

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. *in Manila*
and Carla P. Gomez, Nestor Burgos Jr. and Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

FEARING A BIGGER ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE, MALACAÑANG has sent out an SOS to the United States, Japan and Indonesia to help clean up the country's worst oil spill.

Greenpeace environmental campaigners said the spill from a sunken tanker off Guimaras Island was a disaster "completely unimaginable" for a country as ill-equipped as the Philippines to handle, and that the irony was that the national government failed to see the urgency of the problem.

Police underscored the need for quick action, saying oil was spurting out of the sunken tanker at the rate of 100 to 200 liters an hour.

"The government has already sounded the alarm to foreign governments, including Indonesia, the US and Japan, to help refloat the sunken tanker," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

"This is because a further environmental catastrophe looms as a big volume of oil, estimated at 450,000 gallons (1.7 million liters), is still trapped under water."

Bunye said the National Disaster Coordinating Council was working round the clock to address "this ecological and economic time bomb."

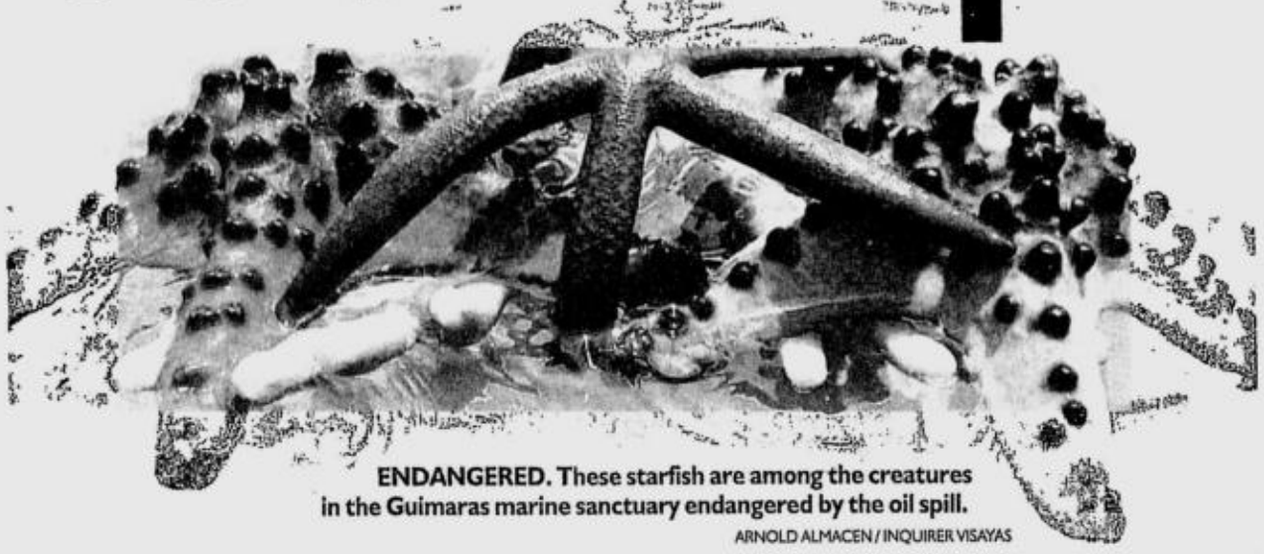
"The team is working at all levels to contain the spill, pinpoint accountabilities, repair the damage, oversee assistance to the affected communities, set up prevention measures and look into long-term policy reforms."

Officials of the Philippine Coast Guard and the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) said initial investigation indicated the MT Solar I had suffered damage while sailing through rough seas and that the vessel should not have continued with the voyage.

The tanker sank last Friday while loaded with 13,000 barrels, or 2 million liters, of bunker fuel.

The spill is considered the biggest in the country's history and occurred just eight months after an oil tanker ran aground off the coasts of Semirara Island in Antique province, spilling more than 300,000 liters of bunker fuel.

RP SENDS/ A8



ENDANGERED. These starfish are among the creatures in the Guimaras marine sanctuary endangered by the oil spill. ARNOLD ALMACEN / INQUIRER VISAYAS

BAREFOOT ON THE BEACH is an unappealing proposition for the fisherman who owns this oil-soaked foot. Tons of oil that spilled out of a tanker on Guimaras Strait have reached this beach in Baranay Tando on Guimaras Island. GREENPEACE

WHAT'S INSIDE

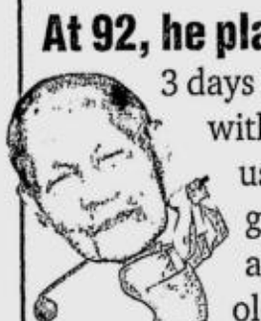
Remembrances and the streets of Manila: Old familiar landmarks revisited
METRO / A17

'Cedula' rush to earn P20M in taxes from Nueva Ecija and Bulacan residents alone
ACROSS / A13

Sea World, where dolphins touch the heart, heads the list of premier tourist attractions in Orlando, Florida
LIFESTYLE TRAVEL / D2

Jay-R says tiff with Borgy Manotoc not a fight, just 'a guy thing'
ENTERTAINMENT / F1

At 92, he plays golf 3 days a week—without using a golf cart—at RP's oldest course
SUNDAY MAGAZINE / 3



IOM: More than just getting OFWs out of harm's way

By Volt Contreras

BEYOND THE SOB STORIES AT THE AIRport or the bureaucratic squabbles that have marked the Filipino evacuation from Lebanon is a steady, experienced hand that, over the last half-century, has helped get migrants out of "somebody else's war."

As of yesterday, 3,540 overseas Filipino workers had been bused out of Beirut to Damascus, Syria, and then flown to Manila courtesy of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), of which the Philippines is a member.

That's easily more than half of the approximately 5,600 OFWs so far repatriated, the rest of whom had their transport expenses shouldered by the Philippine government.

Filipinos have also made up about a quarter of the total number of foreign nationals who have left Lebanon with IOM assistance since the conflict began a month ago. The group has spent $11 million helping 15 countries get their citizens out.

But IOM's work in the Philippines in the last 25 years has certainly been more than just getting OFWs out of harm's way.

From giving orientations to job-seekers abroad, to training immigration agents, to helping policymakers find the best ways to use the dollar remittances for nation-building, IOM has been an engaged witness to the Philippines' increasing dependence on OFWs.

For now, however, the country has been counting on it to save Filipino lives on the other side of the globe.

Although IOM's Manila-based officers monitor the movement of evacuees

IOM/ A8

Eggie Apostol: Lifetime lamplighter

By Juan Rufino Vigilar
Contributor

EVEN BEFORE THE PHILIPPINES WOULD HAVE its first woman president, another woman was helping pave the way for it to happen through the weekly magazine she founded and edited.

At a time when it was safer for the media to bow to the murder of a dictator's political nemesis as the sternest warning against dissent, Eugenia Duran Apostol chose to unmuzzle a people's voiceless pain.

It was her magazine Mr. & Ms., not any of the daily broadsheets cowed by Ferdinand Marcos' authoritarian regime, that gave the hours-long funeral procession of Benigno Aquino Jr. in 1983 the national significance it deserved.

Thousands of Filipinos from all walks of life, led by the widow who would be president, attended what was the biggest demonstration against Marcos. The bearer of shared grief, Mr. & Ms., signaled that the time was ripe to openly and jointly cry out in protest.

The public thirst for information was so great that all copies of the magazine's special issue on the funeral sold out. It promptly spun off into a separate weekly that later would reach a circulation of half a million copies, unsurpassed by any publica-

EGGIE/ A5

EGGIE APOSTOL: Ramon Magsaysay awardee and grand dame of Philippine journalism INQUIRER FILE

Finally, Apo's Jim Paredes gives up on RP

By Gerry Lirio

MELBOURNE—THE SINGER-COMPOSER who helped topple the Marcos dictatorship but years later gave up all hope for a better Philippines is doing just fine in his new-found home in Sydney, Australia.

Five months into his new life as an immigrant, Jim Paredes is slowly becoming the face of a new set of overseas Filipinos, one of the many disillusioned millions who left the country in search of kinder, greener pastures.

"It wasn't as bad as I thought it would be," Paredes told the INQUIRER in an interview. "I'm happy I moved. No regrets."

He inspired young men and women to stay in the country and fight the Marcos regime when it was not fashionable to do so. Today, he urges Filipinos to follow their dreams, even if it means leaving the country for a better life.

FINALLY/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2006

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Northern Luzon will experience occasional monsoon rains becoming frequent over the western sections of Central and Northern Luzon which may trigger flash floods and landslides.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY LAW DE GUZMAN, INQUIRER RESEARCH/08/20/06

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

What about NPA's victims, asks Esperon

AFP chief says communist rebels killed 1,127 people since 2000

DAVAO CITY—THE COMMUNIST NEW PEOple's Army has killed more than a thousand people, including innocent civilians, in the past five years, according to Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

"Since 2000, there have been some 1,127 killings by the NPA nationwide," Esperon told reporters at the Task Force Davao headquarters here on Friday.

He said the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has resorted to killing innocent civilians, small farmers, fisherfolk and people that the guerrillas tap for financial support.

The AFP chief did not specify how many of the 1,127 were military and police, and civilian.

Commenting on a recent Amnesty International report that the government's approach to the insurgency problem has resulted in the assassination of some activist leaders, Esperon said: "We respect the Amnesty International as an organization but it does not necessarily mean we go [along] with their report."

The AI said the threat of political killings had intensified with President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency in February, the arrest and threatened arrest of militant party-list lawmakers, and the administration's all-out war against communist insurgents.

The group raised concerns about "credible reports" that state security forces may have been involved in the killings, or at least may have tolerated or may have had knowledge of them.

AI documented an increase in the incidence of extrajudicial killings this year, recording 51 cases in the first semester. It said there were 66 such killings during the whole of 2005.

"It seems even before they came here they already knew whom to ask, and came out with a report blaming us," said Esperon.

"We are just saying that it seems the report is not entirely true. It tends to lean [too] much to the Left," he said.

He said the London-based international human rights group tends to interview people who are likely to castigate the government.

He said the AI should just refrain from interviewing those people it knows were likely to blame the government.

In Cotabato City, the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) called on the government to heed the AI's call to improve its human rights record.

Khaled Musa, the deputy chair of the MILF's information committee, said the AI report was devastating to the country's image.

He said it would somehow affect the ongoing peace talks between the government and the MILF.

Talking peace with a government that has a "bad" human rights record was like telling the people that "we are dealing with an unreliable partner in the peace process."

"Granting that it is true that the government is not behind these killings, but is the administration so inutile to stop these political killings? Those who cannot lead effectively have no [right] to stay in their posts," Musa said. *Dennis Jay Santos and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

AFP CHIEF OF STAFF Gen. Hermogenes Esperon (center) briefs military officials at Task Force Davao headquarters on the movement of more troops to the front lines in keeping with the government schedule to quash the communist insurgency in two years. DENNIS JAY SANTOS / MINDANAO BUREAU

Book on killings may be moot

By Norman Bordadora

THE BOOK, "STOP THE Killings in the Philippines," was launched yesterday, but it may have already been rendered outdated by events.

Published by the leftist Ibon Foundation Inc., the book is a compilation of stories and figures regarding the killings and disappearances in the ranks of militant organizations since 2001.

First printed in June, the book lists 673 killings. Barely two months later yesterday, Ibon had already recorded 729 assassinations.

"If we base it on the statistics in the book, that's 56 new cases in just two months. That's almost one killing a day," said Rosario Bella Guzman, Ibon's executive director.

Karapatan, the human rights group and main source of the statistics in Ibon's latest project, told the INQUIRER that there were actually 35 new extra-judicial killings from around the time the book was printed in June to its launching yesterday.

"The book was based on statistics before Karapatan's national conference in June. After the conference, we received belated reports of killings from the countryside," said Ruth Cervantes, Karapatan information officer.

"Some of the cases may have happened in January, for instance, but we just received the reports during the conference," she added.

The book said that there were 282 victims of political killings, 69 massacre victims and 147 missing persons in the two-and-a-half-year period from January 2004 to June 7, 2006.

Quoting Karapatan figures, the book disclosed that some 59 persons were killed in 2004, followed by a huge 132 persons killed in 2005. The year 2005 also included more than 200 cases where victims survived assassination attempts.

This year, Karapatan has already documented 91 cases of victims killed beginning early June.

"Through these killings, the Arroyo administration is trying to isolate the most dynamic opposition to her regime, that is, the leftist party-list groups," Guzman told the INQUIRER.

GMA proposal a coverup—Joma

LUCENA CITY—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's proposal to form a special commission to look into the political killings in the country is nothing but a coverup for the military to continue its murderous rampage, according to Jose Ma. Sison, self-exiled founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"It (the commission) can only depend on the sham investigations of the police agents of Arroyo and can only end up with trying to uphold the malicious claims of the regime against the victims, the legal opposition and the revolutionary movement," Sison said in a statement e-mailed yesterday to the INQUIRER.

He claimed that the proposed special commission only intended to pull the rug out from under the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

He urged CHR officials to hold the government accountable for the killings because it had a duty to protect its citizens.

Sison noted that it had long been an "open secret" that no less than the President was in charge of the US-instigated scheme to use state terrorism to destroy the revolutionary movement in the Philippines "under the US policy of war on terror."

On Thursday, Ms Arroyo announced the formation of a new commission that would investigate the spate of leftist and media killings.

Malacañang declared that the planned commission would have the credibility and the clout to move ongoing probes forward to stop the killings and render justice to the victims.

"No solution to the extrajudicial killings and abductions can be expected from the tyrant herself, the practitioner of state terrorism and mastermind of the nationwide slaughter of legal activists," said Sison, chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front based in Utrech, The Netherlands.

He hinted that with the government's failure to stop the killings, other options outside the judicial system were now being considered.

He said no real and honest investigation could be expected from the police, military and the Department of Justice "because their preoccupation is to cover up and let the death squads continue their dirty work, to put the blame on the victims and the revolutionaries and to discredit the human rights organizations and fact-finding missions that have exposed the truth."

Sison also pointed to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales as the alleged brains behind the series of political killings against militants.

According to leftist human rights watchdog Karapatan, over 700 leftist activists, farmers, students, community organizers and journalists have been killed since 2001, when Ms Arroyo was swept into power after a popular revolt against President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

The INQUIRER tally is more than 200, and the police, more than 100. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Joker wants P2B more for victims of Marcos

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

ADMINISTRATION SEN. JOKER ARROYO wants President Macapagal-Arroyo to provide an additional P2 billion for the compensation of human rights victims during the Marcos regime.

Arroyo, who chairs the Senate committee on human rights, sought the President's commitment on the additional sum after the House of Representatives passed its version of the human rights compensation bill that provides only for P8 billion.

The Senate version proposes P10 billion to pay the claims of the rights abuse victims.

The bill is one of five measures set for priority deliberations by the Senate but has yet to be scheduled for approval by the plenary.

"We will pass that before the break," Arroyo said. Congress goes on recess on the second week of October.

Arroyo said he wanted Malacañang's commitment on the P10 billion before the bill is submitted to the plenary for voting.

He said the President has asked for nearly P5 billion to fund the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program under the P46.4 billion supplemental budget for 2006.

No amount was allotted for the human rights victims but Ms Arroyo earlier said P8 billion had been set aside for it from the Marcos Swiss deposits that have been remitted to the National Treasury.

At a recent budget hearing at the Senate, Arroyo asked Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. whether Malacañang would honor the commitment of a previous budget secretary to pay the P10 billion.

Arroyo said Andaya's predecessor, Romulo Neri, who is now socio-economic planning chief, had promised a Senate hearing that the P10 billion would be made available for the claimants.

The amount was since changed to P8 billion.

"We can have a revolving-door secretary here so does it mean we cannot honor the words of one secretary," Arroyo asked.

Controversial exec is Deputy Ombudsman

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday appointed Orlando C. Casimiro as the overall Deputy Ombudsman amid questions on his foot-dragging in filing cases against military personnel implicated in the killings of political activists.

Corruption charges had also been filed against Casimiro by an executive of the same antigraft body.

Casimiro, who has been Ombudsman for the Military and Other Law Enforcement Agencies since January 2000, had been accused by the Asian Human Rights Commission of failure to resolve cases of murder, extrajudicial killings and torture that had prevented police and military officers from being charged.

"The role of the Ombudsman to resolve these cases promptly is essential. Unless the Ombudsman recommends or endorses the filing of complaints against the perpetrators to the court, they will not be formally charged," said the AHRC on its website.

Under his watch as the Ombudsman for the Military, the Arroyo administration surpassed the Marcos era for having the most number of unsolved political killings.

Casimiro also faced charges of corruption, obstruction of justice, favoritism and falsification from Gilberto Bueno, a graft investigation and prosecution officer, who had filed the complaint with Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez.

Bueno claimed that Casimiro had instructed him to approve the dismissal of a case based on a falsified affidavit of the complainant. *Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

Bolante case up before Chicago court Monday

By Philip C. Tubeza

CONTROVERSIAL former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante will finally face a United States court tomorrow to answer charges he entered the US without a valid visa, according to an opposition lawyer.

Lawyer Harry Roque Jr. said Bolante was expected to formally ask Chicago Judge George P. Katsivalis to grant him asylum during the hearing.

"This is like an arraignment. Bolante will be asked to admit to the charge against him—that he entered the US without a valid visa—and he is expected to formally allege his defensive petition that he is entitled to asylum," Roque said.

Bolante is believed to have taken charge of the distribution to administration allies of P728 million in fertilizer funds, allegedly to ensure President Macapagal-Arroyo's victory in the 2004 elections.

Canceled visa

He was arrested at the Los Angeles International Airport on July 7 for carrying a canceled B1/B2 visa. The reason for the visa cancellation remains a mystery.

Bolante was detained at the San Pedro Detention Center on Terminal Island, 48 km from Los Angeles, before Judge DD Sitgraves on Aug. 2 granted his request to have the case transferred to Chicago.

'Delaying tactic'

The transfer was seen as a "delaying tactic" since most of the witnesses—the immigration authorities who arrested Bolante—are based in Los Angeles and would have to make trips to Chicago to testify.

Roque also noted that Bolante's family and the law firm representing him—Azulay, Horn and Seiden, LLC, the largest immigration law firm in Chicago and the fourth largest in the US—are based in Chicago.

Bolante is believed to have petitioned for political asylum, claiming he was being targeted for assassination by the communist New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, for his alleged involvement in the fertilizer fund scam.

One-day trial

After tomorrow's hearing, Judge Katsivalis would then set the date for the "one-day trial proper" during which Bolante would submit all the evidence to support his plea for asylum.

"After that, the judge will come out with his decision. I think he will hurry this up and I'm confident that it's going to be an absolute denial," Roque said.

Hard time

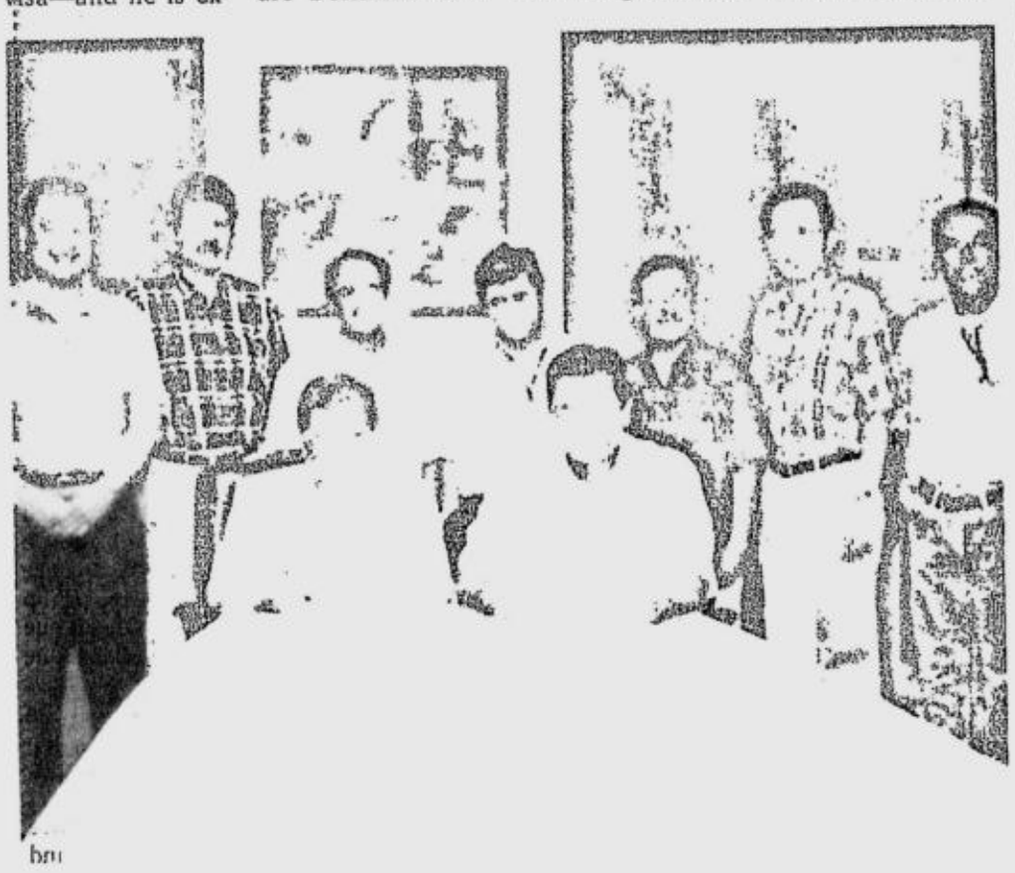
The lawyer said he and other University of the Philippines law experts opposing Bolante's asylum plea have been having a hard time getting the Senate report on the alleged P728-million fertilizer fund scam authenticated.

The lawyers want to submit the Senate and Commission on Audit (COA) reports on the alleged scam to the immigration court to convince it to deny Bolante's asylum application.

Certification

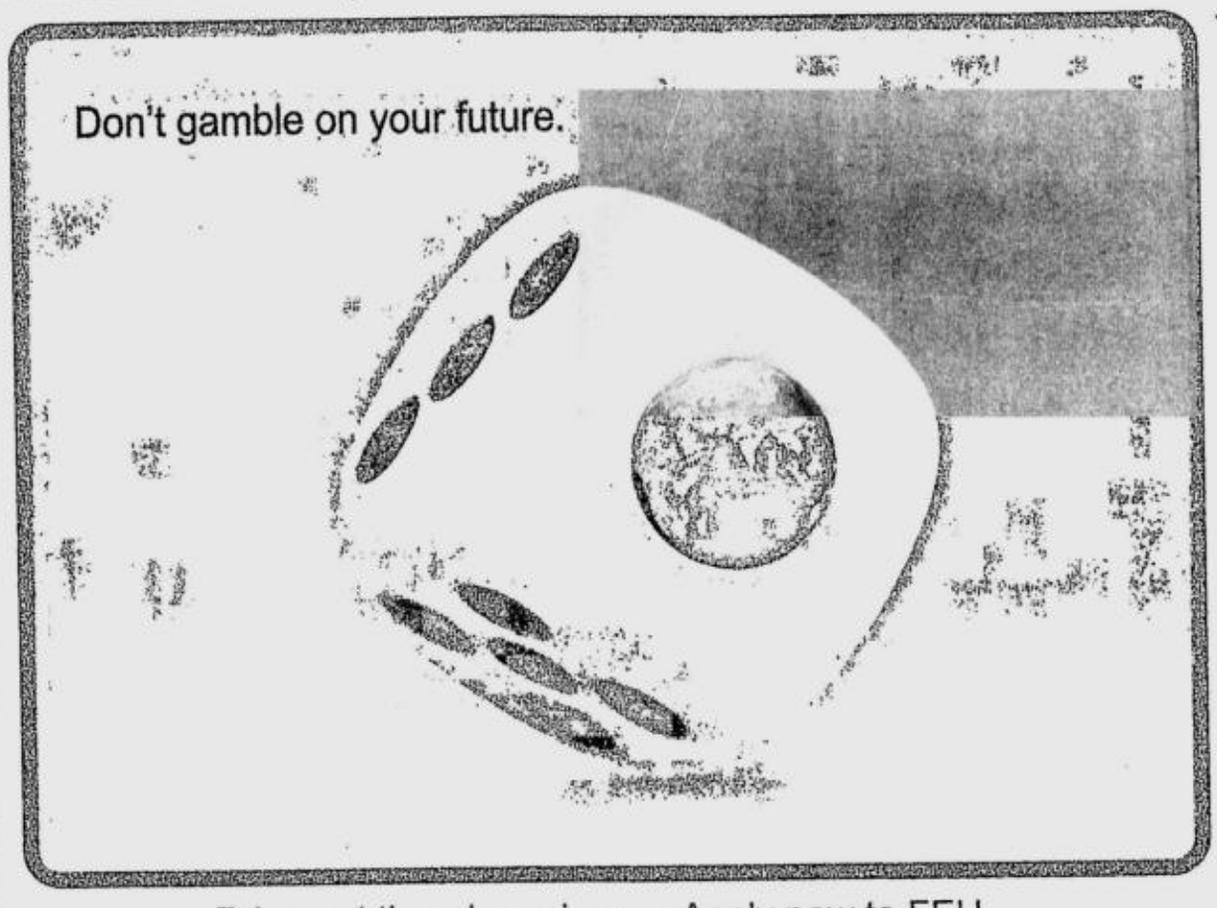
According to Roque, the US Embassy has required that the reports be submitted with a certification of authenticity from the Department of Foreign Affairs. But the DFA has refused to do this without clearance from Malacañang.

Malacañang in turn has asked for the "specimen signatures" of former Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. who chaired the Senate investigation into the alleged scam.



bm

FOR A GREENER NEGROS
The Nordson Green Earth Foundation recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the University of the Philippines-Los Baños Foundation for technical assistance and the preparation of a master plan for the former's 60-ha manmade forest park and training center in Victorias City, Negros Occidental. The park will showcase sustainable agroforestry models in line with the Nordson's thrust to support environmental protection initiatives and the greening of Negros Island. Seated are (from left) lawyer Nordy P. Diploma, Nordson chair and CEO, and Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco Ph D, chancellor, UPLB. Standing are (from left) Joey K. Montalvo and Al V. Mayoralgo of Nordson; Dean Ramon A. Razal, UP College of Forestry; Dr. Willie Carandang, Institute of Agroforestry; Dr. Cecilio R. Arboleda, UPLB Foundation; Dr. Rodel Lasco, ICRAF-World Agro Forestry Centre, and Dr. Robert Visco, UP College of Forestry.



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Existing Poro Point contract valid, says Abaya

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE HEAD OF THE BASES CONversion Development Authority has confirmed that the contract between the government and the private operator of the Poro Point seaport in San Fernando City in La Union was legal and binding despite recent attempts by certain government entities to have it nullified.

But BCDA president and CEO Narciso L. Abaya said the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC) was also in violation of the country's environmental laws, which became the basis for the recent controversial takeover by the government of the PPIC's Poro Point operations.

In an interview with the INQUIRER the other day, Abaya also hinted at rivalries within his agency.

Abaya said a BCDA subsidiary, the Poro Point Management Corp. (PPMC), wanted the contract with the PPIC nullified, a move he opposed.

According to Abaya, PPMC president Felix Singson Racadio— a relative of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, a powerful Palace ally—had asked the BCDA to nullify the contract with PPIC earlier this year.

He said the PPMC had sent to him a PPMC board resolution stating that the PPIC contract was

ABAYA

"null and void ab initio," which the subsidiary wanted the BCDA to ratify.

The PPMC's reasons were that the Poro Point operator had allegedly failed to post a performance bond, there had been no bidding process for the contract, and the contract was "grossly disadvantageous to the government."

The BCDA rejected the request, citing an opinion from the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC), which upheld the contract.

"So that was the position also taken by the BCDA, and we wrote back to Racadio to say that unless the OGCC reversed it, the contract remained valid," Abaya said.

But the BCDA chief also stressed that the PPIC was in "clear violation" of environmental laws, citing the findings of an investigation by the San Fernando city government showing that the company did not have an environmental clearance certificate (ECC) for its port operations.

The government recently took over the Poro Point port operations, citing the PPIC's lack of an ECC.

The takeover has been criticized by administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who said the issue of the ECC was being used by officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for extortion activities.

Abaya disputed a statement by the PPIC claiming that its Poro Point operations were covered by an existing ECC, saying the document which the port operator claimed to have was issued to another firm, the John Hay Poro Point Development Corp., which was formed in partnership with businessman Robert John Sobrepeña.

"The area listed [in] the ECC is 155 hectares and none of it [includes a] seaport," the BCDA chief said.

He said the ECC covered a golf course, commercial, residential and horizontal developments, a casino hotel, a lagoon and open space theme park, utilities, maintenance roads, a conveyer and the relocation of a Voice of America transmission station.

"There was no seaport," he stressed.

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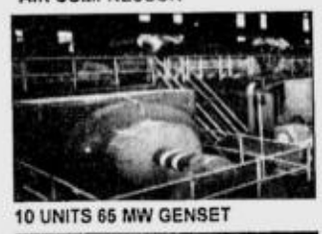

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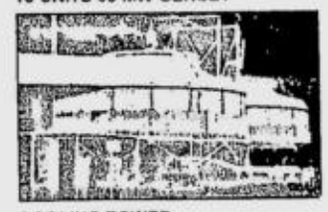

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Nene doubts latest exposé on cheating in '04 election

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

EVEN THE LEADER of the opposition in the Senate is not inclined to believe the exposé by two men who claimed they took part in cheating in behalf of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the 2004 presidential election.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. warned fellow opposition members to be wary of the motives of self-confessed election operators Arsenio Rasalan and Clinton John Colcol.

"Using tainted sources is always a two-edged sword. If Rasalan and Colcol were part of the manipulation of the 2004 presidential election under the supervision of Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, it is difficult to believe they would now act on their own volition to speak the truth," Pimentel said.

The senator, who would normally welcome and even help whistle-blowers come out to testify against Ms Arroyo, said the two men could be aiming to get more "financial concessions from the scam masters."

Recklessly taking Rasalan and Colcol's story as gospel truth, Pimentel said, could be dangerous to the cause of the opposition which is trying to unseat the President over her supposedly questionable mandate.

"For one, they may want to be paid more than what they had probably been paid for their services for their past masters," Pimentel said in a statement.

He said there were some election officers, political operators and other participants in the 2004 poll fraud who had "volunteered to squeal and testify" before the Senate only to back out after they were bribed by the administration. He did not name them, however.

As for the new witnesses, Pimentel said there were warning signs for the opposition.

He said the fact that the scheduled press conference of the two men last Thursday was canceled should have warned those behind them to be extra careful.

The two were supposed to be presented at a press conference with some bishops critical of the administration. Instead, copies of their affidavits and CDs of their testimonies were distributed to the media.

Pimentel also pointed out the men's handlers were quoted as saying that the two, who claimed they shaved votes from Fernando Poe Jr. and added these to Ms Arroyo, were not paid for their services.

But for former Sen. Loren Legarda, the truth about cheating in the 2004 presidential and vice presidential elections could no longer be suppressed after Rasalan and Colcol distributed their affidavits to the media.

"Too many pieces of evidence and a veritable horde of witnesses have come out to prove how massive the 2004

electoral fraud was," said Legarda who is locked in a poll protest with Vice President Noli de Castro after she lost the elections.

"This also holds true for the bungled switching of election returns with forgeries done right inside Congress as a cover-up operation," she said.

Legarda said the testimonies of Rasalan and Colcol confirmed previous physical and testimonial evidence on the switching of election returns done to "deprive Filipinos of their true elected leaders."

In her election protest against De Castro before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, Legarda provided evidence that ERs from the municipalities of Taraka and Balindong in Lanao del Sur had been switched with fakes while in the custody of the House of Representatives.

Legarda backed this assertion by comparing the "fake" ERs from Congress with certified true copies of ERs from the Commission on Election and the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel). *With Norman Bordadora*

'Upgrade by Fitch shows RP on track'

By Philip C. Tubeza

ADMINISTRATION LAWMAKers yesterday said the move by the Fitch Ratings credit-ratings agency to upgrade by one notch its "country ceiling" for the Philippines showed the country was moving forward despite opposition attempts to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lakas Representatives Eduardo Zialcita and Joel Mayo Almario said the upgrade, which came amid the latest failed impeachment bid against the President, proved the country was going in the right direction owing to the sound economic policies of the administration.

The London-based Fitch Ratings the other day raised the country ceiling for the Philippines to "BB+" from "BB". However, it kept the Philippines' sovereign risk rating at "BB", or two notches below the much-coveted investment grade.

Sovereign risk refers to the risk that a government would default on debt obligations, while country ceiling is an assessment of the risk to cross-border currency lending and investment arising from events in a particular country.

Zialcita said the Fitch upgrade was "a prelude to more positive developments like a ratings upgrade from the different ratings agencies, and a consequent surge in investments."

The administration legislators noted that the Fitch upgrade came after DBS, Singapore's largest bank, predicted the peso testing the P50 to $1 level by the end of the year and possibly breaking the P49 to $1 mark by the first quarter of 2007 due to the "upgrades in the outlook for budget, exports and overseas worker remittances."

Zialcita said it was an affirmation of the international community's confidence in the performance of the Arroyo administration.

"Other camps questioned GMA's record as an economist. But recent events showed the government is putting everything on the right track despite the politics. GMA is slowly but surely putting us back on the map," he said.

Almario said the Fitch Ratings upgrade should move every sector to support the President's economic initiatives.

"We should take advantage of this positive development to attract more investors so we can sustain the economic momentum.

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MCLE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM (36 units)
28 AUGUST – 01 SEPTEMBER 2006

DATE	SUBJECT	MCLE CREDIT HOURS	LECTURERS
28 August Monday	Developments in Election Law and Jurisprudence *(Substantive/Procedural Law)*	Three (3) hours 9:00-12:15 pm	Justice Regalado E. Maambong
	Selecting an Efficient Structure for Foreign Investments in the Philippines *(MCLE Prescribed Subject)*	2.5 hours 1:00-3:30 pm	Atty. Carlos G. Banlqued
	Arbitration Skills for Lawyers *(ADR)*	Three (3) hours 3:45-6:45 pm	Prof. Annabelle T. Abaya
29 August Tuesday	Legal Research *(Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy)*	Two (2) hours 8:00-10:00 am	Prof. Myrna S. Feliciano
	Court-Referred and Court-Annexed Mediation *(ADR)*	Two (2) hours 10:15-12:15 pm	DCA Bernardo T. Ponferrada
	Constitutional Reforms *(MCLE Prescribed Subject)*	3.5 hours 1:00-4:45 pm	Atty. Rita Linda V. Jimeno Dean Froilan M. Bacuñgan (ret.)
30 August Wednesday	Civil, Criminal and Administrative Liabilities of Lawyers *(Legal Ethics)*	Three (3) hours 9:00-12:15 pm	Justice Jose L. Sabio Jr.
	Basic Trial Skills *(Pre-trial and trial skills)*	Four (4) hours 1:00-5:15 pm	Dep. Omb. Jesus F. Guerrero (ret.)
31 August Thursday	Legal Writing *(Legal Writing & Oral Advocacy)*	Two (2) hours 8:00-10:00 am	Prof. Myrna S. Feliciano
	Foreign Investments & International Law *(International Law)*	Two (2) hours 10:15-12:15 pm	Prof. Herminio Harry L. Roque, Jr.
	Graft and Corrupt Practices Involving Government Officials *(Substantive/Procedural Law)*	Three (3) hours 1:00-4:15 pm	Justice Diosdado M. Peralta
01Sept Friday	Media and the Law *(Substantive and Procedural Law)*	Three (3) hours 9:00-12:15 pm	Prof. Rowena E.V. Daroy Morales
	Problem Areas in Legal Ethics *(Legal Ethics)*	Three (3) hours 1:00-4:15 pm	Dean Pacifico A. Agabin (ret.)

Venue: 2/F, Bocobo Hall, U.P. Law Center, U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City
REGISTRATION FEE: P7,000.00/package or P750.00/session[morning or afternoon session] inclusive of meals, MLCE Certificates of Attendance, Attorney's MCLE Compliance Report and lecture materials.
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NOTE: Schedules/lecturers are subject to change without prior notice.

Palace clinic to stay

ONE DAY AFTER SEN. LUISA "LOI' Ejercito criticized President Macapagal-Arroyo for being "heartless" because of a plan to transfer the Malacañang medical clinic from the Palace grounds to an out-of-the-way military compound, Ms Arroyo has scuttled the relocation order.

Deputy Executive Secretary for Finance and Administration Susana Vargas informed reporters the President had ordered her yesterday to leave the laboratory, X-ray and dialysis equipment at the Malacañang clinic, while the rest of the facilities would be transferred to the Presidential Security Guard compound on the other side of the Pasig River.

Vargas said this was Malacañang's answer to the clamor from patients and their relatives to keep the clinic at its present location.

The President told Vargas on Monday to move the Malacañang clinic out of the Palace complex within one week, apparently as part of security measures to limit the number of people entering the compound.

Ejercito was distressed when she heard of the President's relocation plans mainly because she was instrumental in furnishing the clinic with high-tech laboratory equipment and dialysis machines when she was First Lady from 1998 to 2001

"I cannot understand why the government of Mrs. Arroyo appears to be totally indifferent to the health condition of our countrymen. Is she too busy or simply heartless? Is it not in her nature to care for the less fortunate?" the senator said in a statement.

The clinic has become a popular facility for Metro Manila's indigents because of the free use of its dialysis machines. *Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

Fed-up GMA demands apology from Cayetano

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO and the First Family have had enough of wanton accusations from critics, the latest from Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano who claimed the family had millions of dollars stashed in a secret bank account in Germany.

In a statement, President Arroyo demanded a "full and unconditional retraction from the person who made that statement and a public apology to the First Family."

"If that is not forthcoming, the proper charges shall be filed and full justice and retribution shall be sought for the damage done," said the President.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the demand for a full retraction and apology and threat of a legal suit showed that "the President and the First Family will not take this vicious attack sitting down."

This is the first time the President has threatened to sue one of her critics in her five years in office as she had always preferred to issue blanket denials to charges leveled against her, including the alleged Jose Pidal account of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

In the discussions before the House committee on justice voted on the impeachment complaint last Wednesday, Cayetano claimed the Arroyos had a secret bank account with hundreds of millions of dollars in it in Germany. *Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

Eggie Apostol: Lifetime lamplighter

From page A1

tion even many years later.

It was no one-shot commercial success that happened to appear at the right time. Its journalistic sense and commitment sustained not only a loyal and growing readership but also the public courage to protest against and eventually topple the Marcos dictatorship.

Pushing the limits

Apostol kept pushing the limits of journalism at the time.

When the trial of Aquino's alleged assassins began and its integrity was suspect, she set up The INQUIRER—a weekly that scrupulously detailed the sometimes comic twists and turns in the hearings.

After nine months of publication, a readership whittled by the pervading sense of a whitewash and losses of almost P1 million, Apostol was about to give up.

But realizing that the opposition had a limited voice versus Marcos—who had declared that "snap" elections be held in three months' time—she felt the need to augment the efforts of the so-called "mosquito press" and promptly turned The INQUIRER into the daily that is known today as the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Although clearly pro-opposition, the new daily provided balance and vigor to an enfeebled media. At first printing 30,000 copies, circulation rose 10 times just before the snap elections, beating the largest daily at the time.

Threats of arrest, even death, hardly intimidated the petite Apostol.

Ban on ballet lessons

The paper whose format Marcos had likened to "an unmade bed" would herald the first peaceful People Power revolution and, three months later, would headline his regime's rude awakening: "It's all over; Marcos flees."

Apostol's feisty character and belief in press freedom showed itself early on in her journalism career, writing for the Catholic newspaper The Commonweal. She had dared oppose the then Manila Archbishop's ban on ballet lessons in schools run by Catholic nuns, and was fired for writing against it.

Later, she would take the newspaper lifestyle sections and women's magazines she edited outside, as it were, the confines of the home, and gave them a more civic spirit by introducing consumer issues and topics of national concern.

Counting the sheets in a roll of toilet paper or weighing *pan de sal* was part of actualizing the advocacy of a consumer group she co-founded even while being a journalist.

The first male nude centerfold in a local women's magazine appeared when she edited Woman's Home Companion (WHC). It was the very first women's magazine that she formed with colleagues who lost their jobs at the Manila Chronicle, after martial law shut down the major dailies in 1972.

But as funding constraints forced a change in the magazine's ownership and its consequent editorial thrust, she quit, the staff close at her heels. As if to look after her own kids, she set up Mr. & Ms. and took in the staff that remained loyal to her.

The magazine's name itself indicated Apostol's constant urge to widen the scope of the typical magazine of the day. Later, she would make space for political criticism, an innovation that gave the orphaned voice of dissent a home.

Sense of purpose

A maternal mien and a constant optimism, buoyed by a strong sense of purpose, earned her the affection and respect of colleagues, young and old, who would help her through the lows in her career.

She has been called Philippine journalism's grand dame.

Amid constant funding constraints and hesitant support from advertisers and even colleagues fearful of a greater backlash in the Marcos days, she gave practically all she had to set up and sustain her publishing career's offspring.

The profit she had made in selling her shares in WHC she used to set up Mr. & Ms., with much of the funding from a supportive husband. She even threw in a diamond ring, a wedding anniversary gift.

Apostol's record-breaking publications marked high points in the country's newspaper history. Not bad for a publisher who once called herself "such a business ignoramus" that, at the height of the INQUIRER's popularity, some board members pounced on her having neglected to keep a share in her name and removed her as chair.

The vote of colleagues who happened to be minority shareholders restored her.

Comeback

Although she left the INQUIRER in 1994, Apostol made a comeback in the publishing scene four years later when mistresses and cronies freely flaunted their connections with President Joseph Estrada.

She saw the urgent need to educate the lower-income readers whose electoral majority had catapulted the former movie actor to the highest office. Daring to use the colloquial *Taglish* and a tabloid format to widen its appeal, she put out Pinoy Times in 1998.

Apostol took in staff of the Manila Times who had walked out of the broadsheet after it was forced to apologize over a story critical of Estrada. It was a "serious tabloid," said former University of the Philippines mass communications dean Luis Teodoro.

After an aborted impeachment trial in 2001, Estrada was ousted in the Philippines' second People Power revolution.

True agents of change

Apostol's responsiveness to events when the media were called to a louder bark made her publications true agents of change. Later in 2001, she received the first Knight International Press Fellowship Lifetime Achievement Award in Washington DC. She was also honored as the first recipient of the Gawad Plaridel, an awards program of the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication in honor of Marcelo H. del Pilar, a Filipino writer who was a primary figure in the propaganda movement against Spain.

As the 2006 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts, Apostol is recognized for "her courageous example in placing the truth-telling press at the center of the struggle for democratic rights and better government in the Philippines."

Although Apostol looks back with a sense of destiny to that time during World War II when she survived a shrapnel wound in the stomach, she makes the significance of her achievements seem incidental. In various interviews, she has repeatedly said she was just "doing what should have been done."

'Education revolution'

Her present advocacy is not quite a retirement from her effort with Pinoy Times to reach out and educate the masses.

She has established The Foundation for Worldwide People Power in 2002, to goad an "education revolution," encourage private-sector participation in school rehabilitation and improve the skills and social awareness of teachers themselves.

She continues to publish Mr. & Ms., which has taken a pan-spiritual bent.

Apostol believes these to be the keys to a national renewal deeper than the changes in government leadership that climaxed the heady days of People Power.

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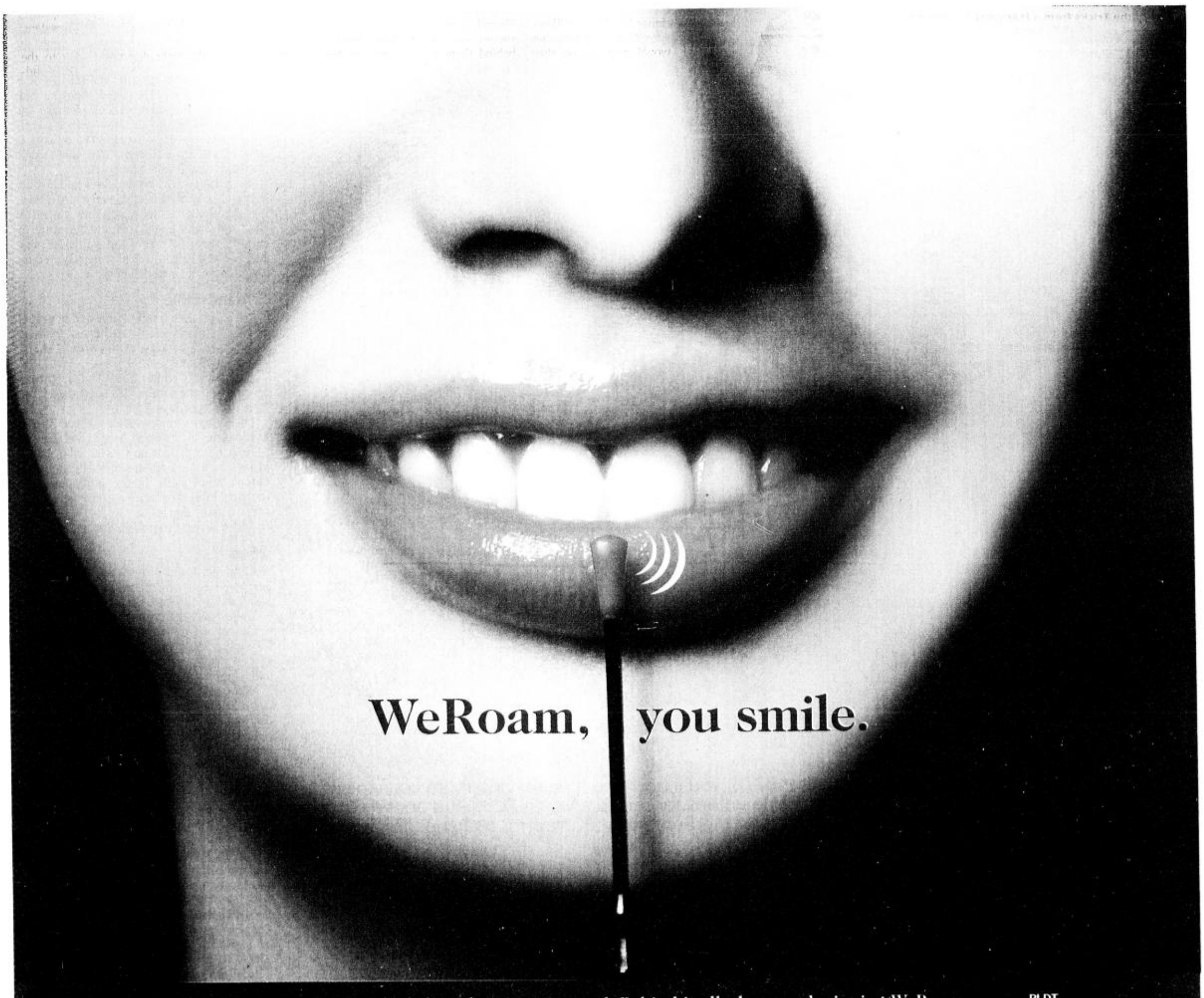

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Man with 2 organs just wants normal sex life

From page A1

The 24-year-old man from the northern state of Uttar Pradesh admitted himself to a New Delhi hospital this week with an extremely rare medical condition called penile duplication or diphallus, the Times of India said.

"Two fully functional penes is unheard of even in medical literature. In the more common form of diphallus, one organ is rudimentary," the newspaper quoted a surgeon as saying.

The surgery was expected to be challenging as both organs were well-formed and full blood supply to the retained penis had to be ensured to allow it to function normally, he added.

The newspaper did not disclose the identity of the man or the hospital to protect the patient's privacy.

There are about 100 such reported cases of diphallus around the world and it is known to occur among one in 5.5 million men, the newspaper said.

It is caused by the failure of the mesodermal bands in the embryo to fuse properly. The mesodermal bands are one of three primary layers of the embryo from which several body parts are formed. *Reuters*

Finally, Apo's Jim Paredes gives up on RP

From page A1

Paredes, one of the three members of the Apo Hiking Society, his wife Lydia, their three kids and a 2-year-old granddaughter left their Quezon City home to settle in Sydney last March, after almost five years of dilly-dallying.

His decision shocked friends, fans and supporters, especially those who admired him for his role in the two People Power revolutions.

One of the most influential singers and composers of his time, Paredes helped nurture original Pilipino music (OPM) and had reached the top of his musical career.

At one point, he served as a trustee of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation and a member of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

Also, he was not a poor man, unlike millions of Filipinos who have to leave for abroad to give their families a decent life.

After the bloody December 1989 coup, Paredes surrendered his green card to the American embassy because he wanted to spearhead the fight to keep the gains of Edsa 1. So committed was he to the Filipino, he decided to get rid of any means of escape.

Political fatigue

So why did he eventually leave the Philippines?

"I felt I'd already done too much in Manila," he said. "I experienced political fatigue. Nothing new was being discussed in Manila. I told my son: 'There is polarization. There are no new ideas.' People have become cynical. I had to leave. I needed to recharge. I had a good life. I want to do things in a foreign country. I told my wife I wanted to leave before I got too old."

Paredes first thought of leaving Manila during the Estrada administration. But the deteriorating health of his in-laws forced him to set aside his plans.

He finally applied for immigration when he was 47, two years past the age ceiling set by the Australian government. But the embassy allowed him to leave, noting that he was a "distinguished individual."

In December, he and his wife flew to Sydney to look for a house. He found a modest one in Kellyville, a few kilometers from the heart of the city. In March, the entire family packed up their belongings and left the Philippines for good.

PAREDES: "There are no new ideas; people have become cynical."

In Sydney, Paredes and his family started from scratch. Except for a few Filipinos who recognized him, he was a nobody in Sydney. His earnings from his successful 30-year musical career helped him start afresh.

Investing on faith

"My fears told me not to [leave]," he said. "But I had prepared for this. [It was] either I finance my fears, or I finance my faith."

Today, Paredes gives guitar lessons to a dozen or so Filipinos and Australians aged 7 to 45 years. He charges A$50 (P1,900) per hour.

"I don't have that many students and it doesn't pay much of the bills," he said.

His wife runs the house—without a maid. One of the kids is in school. They are planning to move to another house soon.

"Here, a worker earns at least A$4,000 (P155,000) a month. People can live with less," he said.

Apo reunion

Early this month, Paredes met with friends, among them Apo members Danny Javier and Buboy Garrovillo, in a Chinese restaurant in Melbourne. It was the first time he had seen the group since leaving the Philippines in March.

The Apo reunited for an Aug. 5 concert titled "Kumustahan 2006," a tribute to overseas Filipinos in Australia organized by businessman Vic Alcuaz. They were joined by singer-comedienne Nanette Inventor and sexy singer Geneva Cruz.

Paredes was enthusiastic and full of stories about his new life. He talked about his new house, what the neighborhood was like and how he and his wife and kids were adjusting to the weather. He discussed the process of obtaining a driver's license and how to deal with the Australian bureaucracy.

He narrated how his daughter had lost her bag and recovered it with everything intact. He talked about how Australians get rid of their old home appliances and furniture by putting them in their front yards for anybody's picking. This was how he acquired his TV monitor and a garden hose.

Safe and stable

"Here, things are safe, stable and in order," he said. "I love it. People are honest. I plan to see the entire country, from north to south, and the outback."

August being winter Down Under, Paredes raved about the sunset. "It's spectacular. You have to go outside and see it."

Fellow Apo members observed that Paredes looked better, more relaxed, happier and content.

He's more patient now, Garrovillo noted. "That's because there are so many things he doesn't know here. In the Philippines, he probably lost his patience because he wanted to do so many things."

Added Javier: "There's no corruption here."

Offers

Although Paredes remains a passionate composer and singer, he has no plans of breaking into the Australian music scene.

There had been offers to do gigs, he said, but he refused to perform without Javier and Garrovillo. "All I want to do here is to be myself. I won't try to find out what's popular here and [sing] it. I am not the type."

At the concert held early this month, Paredes told the excited crowd—mostly in their 20s and up —that Filipinos can make Australia their home. "We can do anything here, anything good for our lives," he said.

The Apo performed songs made popular during Edsa I, such as "Handog ng Pilipino sa Mundo" and "Minamahal Kong Pilipinas." Both are Paredes' compositions about freedom and nationalism.

Standing ovation

The crowd turned misty-eyed and gave the Apo a standing ovation when they sang these lines from the song "Minamahal": *'Panahon na para magbago/ Sawa na kami sa sistema/ Mamuno tayo sa* Asia (It's time for change/We're tired of the system/Let's be a leader in Asia).'

In an interview after the concert, Paredes said that he still loved the Philippines and would want to visit once in a while.

After all, he has not sold their homes in Quezon City and Baguio.

"We have no plans of doing so," he said.

Perhaps Paredes will return to fight another day?

All receipts from June 1 - Aug. 31 qualify for the Sept.1 draw

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DOT counting on Chinese travel agents to spread word about RP

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT OF Tourism yesterday said it would intensify its city-by-city drive in China to promote travel to the Philippines, and has brought in more than 200 Chinese travel agents and tour operators for a look-see.

Roland Canizal, director of the DOT Office of Tourism Development and Planning, said the agency will boost its "Wow Philippines!" advertising drive in the Chinese cities of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

"Now that we've identified the market segments in these three cities, we're expanding our promotion drive to the neighboring cities. That's our strategy," said Canizal, who is also deputy chief of DOT Team China.

Posters of Philippine destinations such as Boracay and Bohol are visible in public parks and subways and on buses in the three cities. A DOT website in Mandarin has been set up and ads placed on big television channels such as CCTV.

'Visa upon entry'

The promotions are paying off, as may be gauged from the record tourist arrivals from China every month, Canizal said. Last year's arrivals surpassed those from other markets such as Hong Kong and Taiwan, he said.

The DOT has been pushing promotions in China with the failure of the Philippine government's "visa upon entry" program to draw the expected number of tourists from the mainland.

"There was a problem because the Chinese wanted to secure their [Philippine] visas first before leaving. The visa has to be obtained before their government grants them official permission to leave China," Canizal said.

However, he said, the visa upon entry program did help increase arrivals because the issuance of visas to Chinese tourists, particularly those traveling in groups, was speeded up.

In the first semester, China was fourth on the DOT list of top 10 travel markets, with nearly 65,000 arrivals.

While the number showed a 41-percent increase from last year, it was still a drop in the bucket given the 20 million annual outbound Chinese tourists.

Tour of Bohol

Last week, the ninth batch of Chinese travel agents, mostly from Shanghai, was taken on a tour of Bohol. They visited the island's attractions, such as Chocolate Hills, the Panglao Island dive spots, dolphin-watching areas, Baclayon cultural heritage site and the tarsier sanctuary.

The 10th batch next week will be taken to Davao, a destination newly introduced to Chinese travel agents.

According to Canizal, the DOT is targeting young Chinese professionals, especially those working in foreign-invested and multinational companies (MNCs), who are keen to travel, have the financial capability to do so, and are usually married with one child.

MNCs often sponsor overseas trips for employees during week-long Chinese holidays.

Accessibility

Per the DOT study, Chinese tourists love the Philippines' beaches, shopping and hospitality, Canizal said.

The DOT is now working to boost accessibility from China, especially because the Philippines is a nearer destination than Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, he said.

He also said Philippine Airlines used to be the lone carrier from China to the Philippines and vice versa but that last month, China Southern started serving the same routes.

Malaysia, Netherlands-bound? Read this

FILIPINOS WISHING TO WORK IN MALAYSIA or the Netherlands should beware of unscrupulous recruiters who promise them jobs in the two countries but without the legal work documents, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration said yesterday.

POEA administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said the agency continued to receive reports of unsuspecting applicants being promised immediate jobs in Malaysia without having to go through the POEA and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office.

"This is an old modus operandi. Although I have already issued several warnings in the past, the false promise of an easy way to work abroad in exchange for a big sum of money is still attractive," Baldoz said.

She also warned those who want to work in the Netherlands not to do so on a tourist visa. Baldoz said that with the rising number of illegal immigrants in that country, the Dutch government is expected to implement tougher measures and heavier penalties against illegal immigrants.

According to Baldoz, the Malaysian government would soon issue identification cards with enhanced security features, such as thumbprints, to all foreign workers, as an answer to the various schemes of illegal recruiters.

Baldoz advised applicants wishing to work in Malaysia or the Netherlands to first check with the POEA if the individuals or the companies offering them jobs were licensed or not.

Jerome Aning

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Sunday, August 20, 2006
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom's invitation

Wisdom has built her house
set upon seven pillars;
she has slaughtered her beasts,
prepared her wine and laid her table.
Next, she sent her servants to call
from the central square of the city,
"Pass by here, you who are fools."
To the senseless she says,
"Come, eat and drink
of the bread and wine I have prepared.
Give up your foolishness and you will live;
take the straight path of discernment."

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20

Be wise

Pay attention to how you behave. Do not live as the unwise do, but as responsible persons. Try to make good use of the present time, because these days are evil. So do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Do not get drunk: wine leads to levity; but be filled with the Holy Spirit. Gather together to pray with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and celebrate the Lord in your heart, giving thanks to God the Father in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord, always and for everything.

Gospel: John 6:51-58

Bread of eternal life

Jesus said to the crowds, "I am the living bread which has come from heaven; whoever eats of this bread will live forever. The bread I shall give is my flesh and I will give it for the life of the world."

The Jews were arguing among themselves, "How can this man give us flesh to eat?" So Jesus replied, "Truly, I say to you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood live with eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day.

My flesh is really food and my blood is drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood, live in me and I in them. Just as the Father, who is life, sent me and I have life from the Father, so whoever eats me will have life from me. This is the bread which came from heaven; unlike that of your ancestors, who ate and later died. Those who eat this bread will live forever."

Commentary

Meet Wisdom! Look for understanding, forsake foolishness and enter the house of God. Are we wise or foolish in our behavior? Are we ignorant or do we discern the will of God (Scriptures)? Do we worship God with others in public, giving thanks, and making sure that we worship God in fact and in reality too? We come together to be fed with God's own life: Word and Bread/flesh and Wine/blood and this food makes us wise. If we eat and absorb this life, live this life now, we will one day know God's life and wisdom in its fullness.

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ISLAND IN DISTRESS: Bird's eye view of Guimaras and the long streak of oil threatening its marine life and coastline. REUTERS

Guimaras, home to endangered species, in peril

By Norman Bordadora

WHEN THE MT SOLAR I SANK WITH MORE than two million liters of bunker oil last week, some Philippine Coast Guard officials warned of the resulting oil slick affecting the internationally popular beaches of Boracay and the area's lucrative tourism industry.

What the public was not told was that the oil slick was on a direct course towards the rich ecosphere of the Guimaras Strait—home to such endangered species as the dugong, and such turtles as the green sea and the hawksbill.

"The area is tremendously rich. Threatened species such as the dugong (*Dugong dugon*), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and several cetacean species are found along the Strait," said Jose Ingles, a marine eco-region coordinator for the World Wide Fund for Nature in the Philippines.

Dugongs are small relatives of the manatee and the sea cow. They are generally less than three meters long.

Mistaken for mermaids

They are often mistaken for mermaids, thus, the term dugong, from the Malay duyung, which means "lady of the sea."

They have a long life span but a rather slow breeding rate.

Green sea turtles get their name from the green-colored fat tissue in its body. A green sea turtle can grow up to four feet and weigh up to 400 pounds. Its carapace is dark brown but is often covered in green algae.

Top export

The hawksbill gets its common English name from its sharp beaklike mouth. This distinctive mouth helps differentiate the hawksbill from other species of sea turtles.

Hawksbill turtles are well known for their beautiful carapace, said to be in demand for many years in the fashion industry.

WWF-Philippines also regards Guimaras Strait as a major fishing ground, particularly for blue crabs, a top export commodity.

Lessons for everyone

"A spill of this proportion is simply catastrophic," Ingles said.

WWF-Philippines said much is needed to be done in the long term to prevent further damage in the area.

RP sends SOS on oil spill

From page A1

The spill is "a disaster the scale of which is completely unimaginable compared to the resources of this country," Maria Athena Ronquillo Ballesteros, Greenpeace International Climate and Energy campaigner, said in an interview, adding that the government itself had admitted "it does not have the capability to deal with a disaster of this scale."

"While the people on the ground are taking immediate action, it appears that the national government has failed to see the urgency of the problem," Ballesteros said.

"All we are doing is damage control. Unless the root of the problem is addressed, the cleanup could take three years and cost billions of pesos."

She said she was impressed by the response of the Negros Occidental provincial disaster management team to the problem. "It's not palliative, its not short term," she said.

Guimaras Gov. JC Rahman Nava said the span of the spill had reached around 220 km as of yesterday.

Plea for help

Nava said around three towns and at least 22 barangays had been affected and he estimated at least 15 to 20 percent of the province's population of 155,000 had been displaced.

"Whatever support, we welcome ... We need help from anywhere, from everywhere, of any kind," Nava said in an interview over dyLA Cebu.

Nava cried on TV on Friday because of the calamity that has visited his province. *(See related story on this page).*

Coast Guard and local government officials said cleanup and containment operations would drag on if the leak from the sunken tanker was not stopped.

"It's like cleaning the wet floor while the faucet is left open," said Nava.

The Coast Guard and Marina said the owners of the tanker, the Sunshine Maritime Development Corp. (SDMC), and its captain could face liabilities for the disaster.

A preliminary investigation by Marina showed that Capt. Norberto Aguro of the Solar I allegedly lacked the required training for oil tanker operations.

In an 11-page report, Marina investigator Arnie Santiago said that while Aguro was a licensed Master Mariner, the captain "does not have Advance Training on Oil Tanker Operations, which is required for the Master on board (an) oil tanker."

Santiago said Aguro's certificate of competency limited him "to serve on board chemical tankers only."

SDMC president Clemente Cancio said the crew members were qualified based on international standards and requirements.

Special inquiry board

He said the company would cooperate with the investigation to be conducted by a special board of marine inquiry set next week.

"We are a small company and we deeply regret what has happened. But we will assume our responsibility," said Cancio.

The Coast Guard said Aguro should have not continued with the voyage because of the damage incurred by the tanker.

Coast Guard regional commander Capt. Arthur Tuason said in a report that Aguro decided to maneuver the Solar I into the Iloilo Strait around 1 a.m. last Friday to seek shelter after the ship leaned on its right side.

Aguro told investigators the chain locker had taken in water.

But the ship failed to drop anchor because its anchor windlass had been damaged, according to the report

"The ship then was already unsafe to sail," Tuason said in his report.

Around 9 a.m., Aguro ordered the crew to push through with their voyage but the ship leaned again a few hours later. The captain decided to return to Iloilo but ordered his crew to abandon ship when the vessel continued to list on its right side.

"He shouldn't have continued sailing," said Tuason.

Marina said that because of the rough seas, it was most likely that the air ventilation was damaged during the pitching motion of the ship.

In all probability, seawater started to enter the ship and flooded unfilled spaces, causing it to list, a Marina report said.

Petron Corp., which had chartered the tanker, said it had organized communities in the municipality of Nueva Valencia to begin cleanup operations at affected shorelines. "We are tapping nearly 800 people from 11 barangays under a cash-for-work scheme to begin cleanup operations today. We will likewise equip them with proper tools for the shoreline cleanup," said Virginia A. Ruivivar, Petron's public affairs manager.

"We are ... providing essential goods to the affected communities. We have likewise touched base with various foundations and groups to seek their assistance in our relief efforts," Ruivivar added.

She said Petron had also provided equipment, formed oil spill response teams and sought experts' assistance to help in the cleanup and containment operations.

"Technically, the liability for the oil spill damage rests with the shipowner ... However, we in Petron feel a moral responsibility to extend every assistance that we can to the province of Guimaras."

Western Visayas police director Chief Supt. Geary Barias claimed Petron had only hired 60 people for the cleanup operations and that its response was "very anemic" compared to the magnitude of the problem.

"The boat is spewing 100 to 200 liters of bunker fuel per hour and to date nothing concrete had been done by Petron to address the 1.8 million liters still under water."

"It's like scooping water from a swimming pool using a teaspoon," Barias said.

He said the oil slick had spread to within 5 nautical miles of the shores of Bacolod and of Barotac Nueva, Iloilo.

Albert Lozada, a Greenpeace coordinator, said the group had seen dead squid, mangroves, corals and fish traps in the Guimaras area covered with oil sludge.

Department of Tourism regional director for Western Visayas Edwin Trompeta said the spill was spreading northeast and could threaten tourism hubs like Bacolod City in Negros Occidental, as well as northern Iloilo.

"Bacolod could possibly be affected in the immediate time. So will the rest of the northern region like north Panay, if the spill is not arrested immediately," Trompeta said on dzRB radio.

With a report from Jerome Aning

'Oil spill undid in days what took decades to implement'

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

JORDAN, GUIMARAS—WEEPING AND HIS voice trembling, Guimaras Gov. JC Rahman Nava showed the face of a Guimarasnon overwhelmed by the destruction wrought by the oil spill on his once pristine community.

"We can only watch in horror how the oil spill can undo in a few days the initiatives which have taken decades to implement," Nava said the other day during an emotional speech at a joint meeting of relief agencies here.

The usually composed governor lamented how the oil leak had destroyed or severely damaged marine reserves, rich fishing grounds and mangroves, while dislocating thousands of Guimarasnons dependent on fishing.

Nava broke into tears when he recalled how the island-province had been a "gem," with its long stretches of white beach, clear sea waters and a wide collection of marine flora.

'Then came 8-11'

"Through the years, we have devoted a sizeable chunk of our development fund to the improvement of our coastal treasures, from projects in coastal resource management, mangrove reforestation, seaweeds, pearl, crustacean culture salt and shellfish industry," he said.

"Utmost care was employed to ensure that the generations after us would continue to enjoy the Guimaras that we are enjoying now.

"Then came the tragic incident of 8-11," the governor said. It was an allusion to the 9/11 (Sept. 11) terror attacks on the United States.

The oil spill would forever change the island and the lives of its people, he said.

No planes, but oil slush

"No, we did not have planes hitting our landmarks as happened in 9-11. We were knocked off our feet and got the scare of our lives with the sinking of MT Solar I," Nava said.

He said that since the spillage hit the shores, residents had been battling it with crude and improvised means—bamboo poles with rice straws, dried grasses, used sacks and clothing.

But their efforts have been dwarfed by the magnitude of the spill.

At least 20 barangays in three towns of the province have been affected, including the 1,143-hectare Taklong Island national marine reserve, Nava said.

In four days, about 14 percent of the province's population (155,000) lost their main source of income—fishing.

The number of affected and displaced families has risen to 4,000 as of Friday.

And that is not all.

Poisoned ricefields

Nava said the oil slick had contaminated some 220 km of coastline and destroyed 454 hectares of mangroves and 58 ha of seaweed plantations.

The restoration of mangroves could take at least 10 years and it was doubtful they could be restored to their pre-oil spill status, according to experts.

Ricefields and fishponds have also been contaminated.

Fumes coming from the bunker fuel have caused health disorders among residents, especially the children.

Nava, a physician, said that reports of cases of respiratory tract infections and complaints of stomach disorders had been increasing.

He said classes in at least two coastal schools in Nueva Valencia had been suspended because most of the students were either coughing or experiencing difficulty in breathing.

IOM: More than just getting OFWs out of harm's way

From page A1

based on graphs and tables, they recognize certain intangibles that have made the Filipino evacuation proceed with considerable ease.

"I would say that yours is one of the smoothest," said Bruce Reed, an American who has served as IOM-Philippines' regional representative for the last four years.

"Cosmopolitan" may not be a term often associated with Filipino domestic helpers—who comprise most, if not all, of the evacuees—but Reed used it to describe the women returnees who actually "required less assistance" from IOM staffers compared with other troubled foreigners.

"They are the more organized group when it comes to moving en masse—and also the friendlier ones," added project manager Ida Mae Fernandez, quoting field reports from Beirut and Damascus.

Some Filipino women, while awaiting rides themselves, had even volunteered to act as "interpreters" for women of other nationalities who could speak neither English nor Arabic well enough, especially when being treated by IOM medical teams.

"They are like a barangay in transit," Fernandez said.

At the evacuation center in Beirut, she said, "the outgoing group designates a cook for the incoming group, and so on. I've heard of at least two Filipino women who decided to stay a few days longer at the center so they could continue organizing."

'We don't want them'

Despite Reed's long years in IOM, "still the most moving thing for me is seeing people coming off the planes, either crying or shouting for joy."

"Caught in someone else's war, they are just happy to be here," he said of the OFWs. "And it's a great thing for the Philippine government to be welcoming them back."

It was on this note that Reed disclosed a disturbing, largely untold, aspect of IOM's mission in Lebanon:

"We have cases where people have called to us to say they want to go back to their country, but their own country says 'We don't want them' or 'We'll take them only if [IOM] does and pays for everything.'"

He declined to name "these countries" but said they should not be criticized outright because they apparently had "war zones" within their own borders or were too mired in internal problems to worry about their citizens stranded abroad.

'Not really new'

Founded in 1951 and with a present membership of 118 countries, IOM has been running an administrative center in the Philippines since 1981.

IOM-Manila currently holds office in Makati City.

"We've done this before, so it's not really new," Reed said of the ongoing aid for OFWs. The last time IOM brought home thousands of Filipinos from a foreign conflict was during the Gulf War.

IOM also made headlines in the country a few months back when it facilitated the immigration of the last remaining Vietnamese "boat people" from the Philippines to the United States.

Among its major evacuation missions were those driven by the conflict in Kosovo and East Timor, and that caused by the Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2004.

Reconsideration

As it is, Task Force Lebanon is considering asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to reconsider her decision to bring home all OFWs in Lebanon, but only if the security situation there would allow their continued stay.

Vice President Noli de Castro, head of the task force and Ms Arroyo's adviser on OFWs, and Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos announced this yesterday after noting the decreasing number of Filipinos choosing evacuation and repatriation.

It was the task force that recommended to the President the evacuation of all OFWs at the height of the war in Lebanon.

Speaking on his radio program, "Para Sa Iyo Bayan," De Castro said the movement of OFWs from Beirut to Damascus en route to Manila was continuing despite the prevailing UN-sponsored ceasefire between Israeli forces and Hezbollah fighters.

50 a day

He said the task force would have to reassess the situation under a postwar scenario after field reports shall have been collected.

According to Conejos, the number of evacuating OFWs dropped from a high of 450 a day during the war to a low of 50 after the declaration of a ceasefire.

"The ceasefire has two phases—first, the cessation of hostilities, and second, the withdrawal of the Israeli army from Lebanon and its replacement by Lebanese and UN peacekeeping forces. The major indicator of [our] final decision is [whether the Israeli forces have withdrawn]," Conejos said, adding:

"[Our decision] will be based on the security situation in Lebanon and the reports of our men on our evacuation efforts. We will await their reports."

OFWs are now taking commercial flights from Syria to Manila courtesy of the Philippine government. This is deemed cheaper than chartering a plane with a capacity of 450 passengers. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

Young Mayon evacuees vaccinated vs measles

By Ephraim Aguilar
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—CHILdren at the different evacuation centers in Albay have received measles shots from the provincial health office (PHO).

The target is to vaccinate at least 15,000 children between the ages of 6 months and 14 years, said Marilyn Palattao, PHO supervising nurse.

Daily and weekly surveys of the water and food supplies, shelters, and latrine and garbage situation are being conducted by the health office, said Dr. Luis Mendoza, Albay provincial health officer.

The medical teams are also in the evacuation centers daily, Mendoza said.

Aside from immunization, the PHO is also concerned with nutrition, providing medicines for the sick, disease surveillance and stress debriefing.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said Mt. Mayon produced two minor explosions yesterday, way less than the previous day's six.

In a bulletin issued yesterday morning, Phivolcs said the explosions occurred at 3:35 a.m. and 4:14 a.m.

Phivolcs said that on Friday evening there was an "apparent decrease in rockfall activity and a noticeable decrease in the intensity of glow from the lava deposits in the middle and lower slopes of the volcano."

It said the present estimated volume of erupted volcanic deposits was about 36 to 41 million cubic meters.

The Mabinit, Bonga lava flow continued to advance very slowly and the toe of the lava deposit was within 7 kilometers from the crater.

The seismic network detected 22 volcanic earthquakes, indicating the continuing ascent of magma to the crater.

There have been 240 tremor episodes recorded, which were mainly caused by lava extrusion and rockfall activity while the sulfur dioxide emission rate decreased to 2,712 tons per day from the previous day's rate of 2,937 tons, which, according to Phivolcs, reflected active magma degassing.

"These fluctuations really happen during the abnormal times of high level of unrest of the volcano," said Eduardo Laguerta, senior science research specialist and resident volcanologist.

He said Phivolcs would have to observe and monitor these changes.

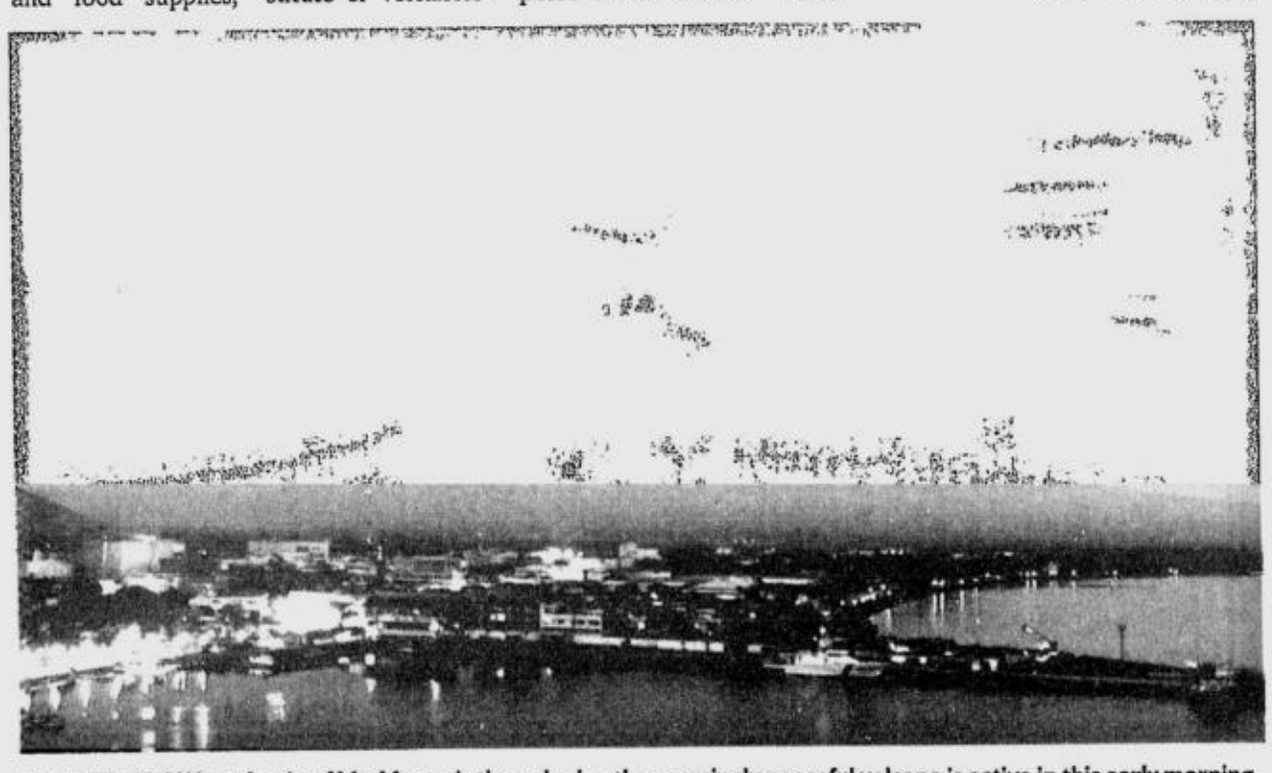
"If the changes are abrupt, then this means that there is a possibility that there would be a major eruption," he said.

"Unless there is a gradual decline, then we would have to observe the parameters and signs for at least a week or two, then we will decide whether to lower the alert level or not."

He explained that they wanted to be careful because in 1984, after a week of quiet, Mayon suddenly blew up and triggered a big pyroclastic flow.

Alert level 4 remained in effect, which means that a hazardous explosive eruption may occur at any time.

The public has been advised of the 8-km radius Extended Danger Zone, especially in the southeast sector of the volcano.



THE RED GLOW on the tip of Mt. Mayon is the only sign the seemingly peaceful volcano is active in this early morning photo taken Saturday. Alert level 4 remains in effect and experts maintain an eruption could occur at any time.
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OPINION

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Get it out, now

THE GREENPEACE REPRESENTATIVE CALLED IT right. The sunken tanker Solar I, which has already leaked some 50,000 gallons of oil into the waters off Guimaras, is a "ticking time bomb." Under unforgiving water pressure, the vessel's tanks containing the rest of the ship's load, some 450,000 more gallons of oil, may also rupture. When that happens, the disaster we have in our hands will turn into a catastrophe.

EDITORIAL

"The longer that tanker stays underwater, the greater the danger," says Von Hernandez, Greenpeace campaign director for Southeast Asia.

As it is, the oil spill is already one of the worst in the country's history. The bunker oil from the ship, leased by Petron Corp., has already covered some 200 kilometers of shoreline, of an island more famous for its mangoes and beaches. Part of the shoreline has already turned into sludge, and marine life has already been compromised. An advisory has been issued warning against the use of fish and shellfish caught in Nueva Valencia, Sibunag and other affected barangays. The result: decreased incomes for fishermen, a decline in the food supply for affected residents, the diversion of local resources to the massive cleanup drive. The tourism industry in the area, too, looks like it will soon take a hit.

But all this will look like a regular fiesta, if the ship's other tanks burst under the pressure of 3,000 feet of water. Thus, the immediate need is for either the tanker to be raised out of the water, or for the remaining oil to be siphoned off. And yet, nine days after the ship sank (during which an entire *novena* could have been said), it remains exactly where it is, ticking like a time bomb.

The Coast Guard commander in the area gave vent to his frustrations yesterday. "What has got up our goat is that we hear a lot of talk about what should be done but nothing has happened. That ship sank over a week ago and officials are still talking," Harold Jarder told Agence France Presse.

That, in fact, is the impression we also have. Those responsible for the oil spill (the officials of the ship owner, the badly misnamed Sunshine Maritime Development Corporation, as well as the executives of Petron, which chartered the tanker) talk as if we have the luxury of time, or as if talk were a substitute for action.

It is, of course, important that the damage from the oil spill be placed under immediate control, and to this effect Petron has donated booms to hold some of the oil back; donors have given not only relief goods (for affected villagers) but also cleanup tools (such as foam, rice straw, even human hair); volunteers have rushed to the shoreline to collect the sludge. But it is even more crucial that the oil spill itself be contained. The bomb must be defused. Or, to use another image: It is not enough to merely plug the leak, when the pipe itself is about to burst.

It is painful to realize that the Coast Guard does not have the actual resources to raise the ship or siphon the remaining oil by itself. But Petron is a billion-dollar corporation; it certainly has the resources to hire the right equipment from anywhere in the world to remove the rest of the ship's load of bunker oil.

Let us make that extra clear: While the cleanup work is crucial, we believe that the real priority is preventing the rest of the oil from leaking into the sea. Petron's cash-for-work scheme, for instance, where some 800 villagers will be contracted to help in the cleanup, is an important part of the damage control effort. But it cannot be a substitute for the real priority work—not to add more fuel to the ecological fire.

Cost of torture

IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO THWART FUTURE TERROR PLOTS if extraordinary measures were not adopted. But this poses an ethical dilemma for every political system: Will torture be one of these measures?

The value of the extracted information is in doubt because whoever is subjected to torture could say anything to escape the pain. We must seriously take into account the main cost of torture: the huge loss of face and credibility of the governments that make use of it.

FOREIGN COMMENT

For example, the political cost to the US armed forces of use of torture, as symbolized in the Abu Ghraib scandal in Iraq, was surely higher than the benefits gained in terms of intelligence.

Therefore, one needs to evaluate with extreme caution the prospect of using such means which, even if successful, could ruin the values we are fighting for. *Corriere Della Sera (Milan, Italy)*

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Neither here nor there

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IF I HAD KNOWN THAT MANUEL QUEZON III was gay, I would have desisted from writing that column last week on homosexuals out of respect for a fellow columnist. But now that he has retorted angrily and called me a bigot among other names, I have no choice but to reply.

I started that column with the caution that it was not intended as an attack against homosexuals in general and did not include "those who have behaved in a reserved and discreet manner unlike the vulgar members of the gay community who have degraded and scandalized it. I offer abject apologies to those blameless people I may unintentionally include in my not inclusive criticisms. They have my admiration and respect."

As Mr. Quezon himself does not consider himself among the exceptions, he would be what we lawyers call a "proper party," or one who is directly injured. In fact, he appears to be severely wounded by my remarks and is hemorrhaging profusely. He, therefore, has a right to react to my "insults" in the waspish manner he saw fit.

He calls me a hate-monger for deriding the vulgar practices of his kind and says I have no right to say what is tasteless and intolerable. Who has—he? Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes said that freedom of speech includes not only the right to express the thought that agrees with us but also the thought that we abhor. Voltaire was grandiloquent: "I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

Criticism is normal in the free society and is available to everyone right or wrong. The ideas that may be expressed under this freedom are not confined only to those that are sympathetic or acceptable, for that would make the freedom more shadow than substance. To be really meaningful, it should permit the articulation of even the unorthodox view, though it is hostile to or scorned by others. One of the purposes of this freedom, in fact, is to invite dispute.

If I do not appreciate the paintings of Picasso, any one who disagrees with me may say so and explain his reasons. But he cannot attack me personally for criticizing his idol. Mr. Quezon compares me to the tyrants in the police states where unacceptable identity or thought is systematically exterminated. In the free society, ideas are countered with ideas, not pejorative names. For criticizing his kind, Mr. Quezon likens me to the Nazis and the Reds and brands me a hate-monger.

Hate is not *per se* objectionable as Mr. Quezon may imply. Jesus Christ hated sinners and angrily drove the merchants and money changers from the holy temple they were desecrating. Was he a hate-monger for doing so? When Winston Churchill called on his countrymen to resist the enemy with all their blood, sweat, toil and tears, was he a hate-monger in the despicable sense of the phrase? That is what Mr. Quezon would call me for criticizing his kind.

I am a hate-monger against grafters, murderers, rapists and other criminals, but I only dislike the coarse homosexuals he defends, as is his right. Also disagreeable to me are straight persons who wear loud clothes, flunkies, hypocrites, humbugs and other unpleasant figures, male and female, in our imperfect society. I have the right to criticize them even as they have the right to reply in the common exercise of our freedom of expression.

It all depends on what and whom you hate. If I criticize homosexuals who disgrace their sex with their tasteless practices and appearance, any one among them can rise in defense and say why they should not be called obnoxious. But not in an obnoxious manner.

Mr. Quezon faults me for disagreeing with some practices of his kind that I find intolerable and insists that they have the fundamental right "to those we choose to love, to have relationships with and with whom we aspire to share a life marked by a measure of domestic bliss and emotional contentment."

Who's interfering with your romances? As long as you are not violating the law, you are free with your liaisons, and I for one do not pry into your amorous affairs. Nor do I want to.

The important thing is that you have no right to demand that I agree with your pleasures or to forbid me from criticizing your "emotional contentment" if they offend the public interest. You cannot claim a preferred treatment because you are what you are even as you say you should be treated like the rest of the people despite what you are.

Finally, rejecting my reservation that my criticisms are only for the distasteful among you, you piously declare: "I will not embrace him, not for that, much less shake his hand or offer him the opportunity for civilized disagreement." That opportunity is not yours to give, Mr. Quezon, and as for not embracing me—thank God.

Available and humble

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A TOURIST who, while touring a South American country, was shown a bullfight. The guide told her, "This is our No. 1 sport."

The horrified woman said, "Isn't that revolting?"

"No," the guide replied, "that's our No. 2 sport."

* * *

In today's Gospel (John 6:51-58), the Jews found Jesus' discourse on the Bread of Life revolting. How can He give His flesh as food, and His blood as drink, they asked among themselves? In fact, many of the Jews and not a few of His followers stopped believing and following Him after He insisted that His flesh is true food and that His blood is true drink. It's hard to say, but if you and I were living then and heard this man say such absurd words, maybe, we, too, would have abandoned Him. More than understanding His message, more than accepting His message, Jesus is asking all of us to first trust Him and believe in His person.

* * *

Jesus was not afraid to risk and even lose His popularity and acceptance by the people. He told the truth. He did not manipulate it, He did not sugarcoat it, He did not stop it. For Him, the truth is the truth—nothing more, nothing less, nothing else. Take it or leave it. Along with that was also the choice to take Him, or leave Him.

* * *

Why follow a leader? Perhaps we can answer this question by paraphrasing the Rotary's 4-Way Test: (1) Is he/she truthful? (2) Is he/she fair to all concerned? (3) Does he/she build goodwill and better relationships? (4) Is he/she beneficial to all concerned? Note that the primary question is about truthfulness, and the last question is about being beneficial. If we were to follow Jesus as our leader, we must, as He did, put truth above expediency.

* * *

There is a story about a 2-year-old who swallowed a one-peso coin. The mother picked him up, turned him upside down and sharply hit his back, and the child coughed up two 10-peso coins! What did she do next? She fed him more one-peso coins so that more 10-peso coins would come out!

Revolting, isn't it? Yes, it's revolting how money has become the bottom line, the controlling factor and the final denominator in our world today. It is so hard to talk about the Bread of Life in a world that only wants bread. So, do we stop talking? All the more we must proclaim Gospel truths and Gospel values to shed light to what is happening around us. How far easier to conform, to play safe, to play dumb, blind and deaf. If the word of God does not move us anymore, if the word of God does not disturb us anymore, that only means we have stopped looking for the Bread of Life and have cast our eyes on plain and simple worldly bread.

* * *

When we experience persecution or rejection of any kind because of our proclamation of Gospel truths and values, we take consolation in the Lord's promise that truth and justice will prevail in the end, and soon. When we go for the Bread of Life over worldly bread, we are assured of His message—that He will be with us, always. And if it is of any consolation, worldly bread does not last, and we cannot take it with us when we die; while the Bread of Life, Jesus, stays with us, and will bring us to eternal life.

* * *

The Living God makes Himself available for us as food in the form of bread in the Eucharist. Perhaps, we too should reflect on our availability to other people. As it is, some of us make ourselves out of reach or beyond reach. May we never be accused of being so far away and detached from people who need us. Are you available? Are you reachable?

* * *

The Eucharist reminds us not only to be available but to be humble as well. If only we learned to be more humble before God and before our brothers and sisters! A lot of our problems could be solved if we knew how to humble ourselves. May the Eucharistic Lord remind us today to think of ourselves and to conduct ourselves not with pride, but with humility.

* * *

Before this day ends, perhaps, you can do something in line with availability and humility. Start with your own family. Are there people you have not visited, called or talked to? Are there people you have neglected or have not made time for? Are there people you need to help or reach out to? Let the Eucharist move us out of our shells and comfort zones to become "food" for other people. Remember, the Eucharist is not just about receiving it, but much more about giving and sharing it.

* * *

Please say a prayer for us, your priests, today that we, the ministers of the Eucharist, may become truly lovers of the Eucharist. Pray for us to be truly available and humble like the Eucharistic Lord. Pray that we, who administer the Eucharist, become not just dispensers of the Eucharist, but become living Eucharists as well.

* * *

Bantay Matanda invites you to a lay forum on Depression & the Elderly at Janssen Hall, Christ the King Seminary, E. Rodriguez Blvd., Quezon City on Aug. 26, 8 a.m to 12 p.m. Call 3732262 for inquiries.

* * *

"God is love; and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him."

Be inspired by daily Bible verses, text ON<space>BIBLE and send to 2948 for Globe/Sun or 3940 for Smart. God bless you, Mama Mary loves you!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Eucharistic Lord, help me to become available and humble like you. Amen

'Uniform Code of Military Justice' for the AFP

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, THE PUBLIC WAS TREATED to the unusual spectacle of young military officers in yellow T-shirts being paraded before the media. The young men belonged to the Magdalo group of company-grade officials who took part in the Oakwood incident last July 2003. They had been arrested and were being presented in a manner usually reserved for *jueteng* lords, bank robbers and rapists. Incidentally, three years after Oakwood, many of them are still waiting for some resolution of their cases.

Recently, Scout Rangers, accused of participating in the alleged coup attempt last Feb. 24, were presented for pre-trial investigation at Camp Aguinaldo. They were in handcuffs, escorted by heavily armed guards. Most of them, including their commander, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, are presently detained at a maximum security facility inside the headquarters of the 2nd Infantry Division at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal.

Earlier, 12 Marines, led by Col. Ariel Querubin, showed up at the Judge Advocate General's Office (JAGO) in Camp Aguinaldo without guards and handcuffs. They were facing the same charges as those filed against the Scout Rangers, but they were not under the same restrictions as those imposed on the Rangers. In fact, some of them came to the hearing in their own vehicles.

The Marine commandant, Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, who is also accused of involvement in the February coup plot, belongs to the same PMA class as Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., AFP chief of staff. Miranda is under the custody of Navy chief Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga, which presumably means that he enjoys the comfort of his quarters at Fort Bonifacio. Contrast this treatment with that of Brigadier General Lim, the former commander of the Scout Ranger regiment. Lim is a West Pointer, Class of 1978. He obviously has few friends in the upper echelons of the Army and so he finds himself in a maximum security cell in Tanay. One can argue that Lim is a recidivist but so is Querubin. Both were involved in the 1989 coup attempt.

Because the public noticed these discrepancies in the treatment of officers accused of the same offense—some call it a double standard—the Marines were recently moved to a naval staff house at the Bonifacio naval station, guarded by Navy personnel other than Marines.

I mention these cases to bring out one glaring fact. The Armed Forces of the Philippines does not have a uniform code of military justice. We are still relying basically on Commonwealth Act 408 which has undergone some revisions.

In the United States, the foundation of military law is the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). But for more than a century, it too, relied on the Articles of War, a law enacted by the US Congress in April 1806. It was only in 1951 that the US Congress drew up the UCMJ which prescribes both the substantive and the procedural law governing military justice and its administration in the US Armed Forces. It superseded the Articles of War and provided for the first time in the history of the United States a single law for the handling of military justice in the armed services. All its members are subject to the jurisdiction of this Code.

The word "uniform" in the Code's title refers to the intent of Congress to uniformly or consistently apply military justice in the armed services.

One example of the provisions of the Code has to do with the subject of "Apprehension and Restraint." Sec. 813, Art. 13, (Punishment Prohibited Before Trial) reads as follows: "No person, while being held for trial, may be subjected to punishment or penalty other than arrest or confinement upon the charges pending against him, nor should the arrest or confinement imposed upon him, be any more rigorous than the circumstances required to ensure their presence."

Perhaps, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz could take this matter into account in his Philippine Defense Reforms Program.

* * *

Last week, the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association tendered a testimonial dinner in honor of the PNP chief, Director General Oscar Calderon, PMA class of 1973 and the AFP chief of staff, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., class of 1974. The PMA Alumni Association is currently headed by Cavalier Roland Pattugalan, class of 1957, as chair; and by Cavalier Angelo Sunglao, class of 1977, as president.

At the cocktails prior to the dinner, someone mentioned that it was necessary for General Esperon to be confirmed soon by the Commission on Appointments. At the moment, his promotion to lieutenant general (three stars) when he was the commanding general of the Philippine Army is still hanging since he was bypassed by the commission during its last hearing. The law appears to be quite clear. Any nominee of the President can only be considered as appointed once confirmed by the Commission on Appointments. In fact, in the Philippine foreign service, ambassadors cannot assume their posts unless they are first confirmed by the commission. We have an unusual situation in the armed forces. The Air Force and Navy chiefs, Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes and Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga, respectively, have been confirmed. The Army chief, General Esperon was bypassed, and then he was promoted to AFP chief of staff. The bypass was part of the fallout from the "Hello, Garci" controversy. Although the "Hello, Garci" generals were cleared by the Mayuga Report, obviously this did not impress some of the members of the Commission on Appointments since none of them actually saw the report which until now remains "top secret" because of national security concerns.

Rage against the dying of the light

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT TRUTH, AND JUSTICE, AND THE people who get caught in between. About a half-an-hour ride from Quezon City, soot-stained factories and car washes make way for glassy fields drowned in brown water and a roadside billboard that says "Sta. Rita, 1 Km." Beyond the blue and white tollgate, a sign welcomes visitors to Barangay Plaridel, Bulacan, the place where videoke machines are rented out, roasted goat is for sale by the kilo and tricycles have matching umbrellas attached to their motors. At the first side street, past unpainted concrete houses, past scratched-off campaign posters, past a man in red shorts carrying a plastic bag with a 2-liter bottle of Coke, is the Church of St. James.

I walk into the church and find a young girl in a school uniform sitting at a pew. I ask her where the refugee center is. She pulls open a wooden door, and I follow her into an unlit passage, through another wooden door, across a cobbled path by a green, green garden and out into a sprawling concrete courtyard.

The refugees stay in what was once used as a convent, now called Domus Dei, the House of God. The torn wallpaper in the women's bedroom is taped down at the seams, while lengths of wire strung across the room serve as makeshift closets. Funding comes from local mayors, the church and private individuals. I am told the refugees have enough to survive one more week.

In the darkened kitchen, a teenage boy sits at a table and eats a scanty meal off a plastic plate. He looks up and smiles. "*Kain po.*"

In a perfect world, where laws are followed and soldiers exist to protect the people, an order of battle (OB) is an organizational tool used by military intelligence to list and detail enemy military units during war. In Philippines 2006, an order of battle is an excuse to play God in the witch-hunt to crush the evils of communism. Those on the lists are as good as dead. To be in an OB list does not always mean you are an armed rebel, it may mean you're a suspected sympathizer, a neighbor, a cousin, a drunk on the way home or one of the dozens of human rights documenters who get caught in the crossfire.

Beside me, on one of Domus Dei's rattan armchairs, Celestina Nantes, called Tina, tells me her story. She is a slight woman in her late 40s, her lower teeth protruding to form a V. Her brother Danilo is San Jose del Monte's barangay captain. An armed man went to his office recently, introduced himself as one of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan's men and asked for help in locating the people in his OB list. Tina, a human rights advocate, was at the top of the list.

Her brother warned her in time, but not without cost. Danilo is now in hiding, with armed men hounding him at both home and office. Tina is worried, and not just for him—in her group of advocates, there was one left behind, the one Tina calls Nanay Mercy: all of 72 years old, and also in the order of battle.

I had been sitting in Domus Dei no more than an hour, but my notebook is filled with their stories. There is JR, who looks like a college freshman, all gelled hair, glasses and sneakers. His family was burned out of their home because his two siblings are suspected of being NPA members. There's the story of Mayor Edgardo Galvez of San Ildefonso, Bulacan, who heard that OB lists were going around and that uniformed men, wearing hoods, had begun slaughtering his people. He called the commanding officer to his office demanding an explanation, and was told it was an exercise in peace and order to warn all sympathizers. When the mayor asked what they intended to do to those who did not give in, the officer answered, "Kill them." Then he casually informed Mayor Galvez that he was next on the list.

Patricio Manahan is the most recent arrival. He is not on the order of battle, it is his brother Arsenio who is a member of a Malolos fishermen's organization. Arsenio was not home on Aug. 8, 2006, so the armed men shot Patricio thrice inside his own home, five days after his wife gave birth to their second child. The Malolos PNP, under orders of Mayor Domingo, escorted the family to Domus Dei, and Patricio to a hospital.

I step into the tiny room assigned to the Manahan family in Domus Dei. It is a small, shadowy room with a wooden bed and an uncovered mattress on the concrete floor, home to four women—two sister-in-laws, Patricio's wife Irene and his mother—along with five children and a 2-week-old baby. I stop to ask questions, but nobody listens, because eager voices announce glad tidings: Patricio is home from the hospital.

The sunlight shoots off the tin roofs, and people gather in the courtyard. All is quiet, even the children have stopped their playing. A tall man trudges toward us, his right arm slung in an old green bandanna, the left clinging to his wife's shoulder. He looks straight ahead, saying nothing even when his mother started touching him, her palm on his chest, then the tips of her fingers sliding from rough cheek to thin shoulder.

They sit him at the edge of the wooden bed. On the floor, his 2-year-old daughter sits staring at him. He reaches for her, but one arm cannot seem to function, so the baby is put on his knee, and he clutches at her, and the sobs that are ripped from his throat are raw, his mumblings nearly incoherent, "*Akala ko di ko na 'to makikita, Diyos ko.*" He holds on until they take the baby away so he can lie down, his old mother lifting her grown son's legs up on the bed.

Patricio's wife Irene is across the room, mixing milk for the baby. She is calm, but I see her stop and grip the edges of the kitchen sink. I leave because it feels too private—and somewhere between Tina's story and this tiny bedroom, I stopped trying to be a reporter and watched a desperate father cling to his wide-eyed daughter. I think of my father, and feel guilty because I'm glad this man, this wounded man isn't him, glad that my father is safe to answer his crossword puzzles and dance with his year-old granddaughter.

In Manila, Major General Palparan claims he is in the hospital because of a fever, and cannot possibly go to court. In Bulacan, a tired man lies on a wooden bed, his useless arm hanging by his side because he cannot afford treatment in a Manila hospital.

This is the story of the 2-year-old baby who will not understand why she cannot swing on her father's arm. It is not a new story, but it is one that is rarely told, and much rarely heard.

* * *

For questions on supporting Domus Dei, or comments on this article, send to pat.evangelista@gmail.com

Bring the women home

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

The needs of poor children for food, medicine and schooling are immediate and call to the heavens for answers

EVERY AUTUMN, MILLIONS OF MONARCH butterflies gather in southern Canada. They fill the trees and, with their numbers, changing the color of the trees to vivid orange. Then they migrate to spend the cold North American winter in the warmth of places like Michoacan, Mexico. They are beautiful and fragile-looking, but they fly over 2,000 kilometers to arrive in Mexico.

In Hong Kong's central business district, every Sunday, thousands of other beautiful beings line the sidewalks and walkways, fill up the parks and change the usually bustling, dead serious business area into a happy Filipino picnic grounds. They sit on cardboard or *banig* to talk, eat Filipino food, play cards, sleep and tell stories, good and bad, about their Chinese employers and the news from home. They seem happy, but a visitor senses an underlying sadness. Most of the women are young mothers—and isn't there something sad, almost unnatural, about caring for someone else's children when their own are far away? Beneath the happiness that we see is a longing for the children—a longing that never leaves them.

Many are abandoned by their husbands who use the money sent home to find another woman. Many are abused, raped and humiliated by their employers, according to the Good Shepherd Sisters who host groups of the women in the Catholic Centre.

We may compare the women to the ancient Jews in exile in Babylon, about whom the Psalmist wrote: "By the waters of Babylon we sat mourning and weeping when we remembered Zion ... Our captors asked us for the words of a song. How can we sing the songs of the Lord in an alien land?"

I saw a young overseas worker arrive at the airport in Manila one night. She reached for her baby in her husband's arms, but the baby howled and turned away. The woman cried and, maybe, she wondered if her work was all worthwhile.

The women like the butterflies are fragile.

Early morning at Mass in the Canossian Sisters chapel, a woman prayed at the Prayers of the Faithful: "I pray God that we may all go home someday." The other women nodded in agreement.

That's the question: how do we bring the women home?

We were in Hong Kong just after President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address, in which she outlined the government's plans for the next four years. It was natural to wonder what the infrastructure plans—the bulk of her talk—might mean to the women workers and their chances of going home; or to the poor women of Baseco who have on average only P100 a day to feed their families of five or six people, a diet that guarantees the children are malnourished; or to the widows of slain Negros farmers; or to the mothers suffering at the foot of a foul-smelling garbage dump in the Cabuyao relocation center. In short, what is the connection between the proposed infrastructure and poverty reduction? Is there a connection?

At best it is indirect one. Experience shows infrastructure, such as highways and airports, benefit the well-off people first and predominantly.

An alternate and surer approach to ending poverty is suggested in an article published in the Aug. 15 issue of BusinessWorld, "RP trails Asian neighbors in reducing poverty level," by Bernadette S. Sto. Domingo. In the article which focuses on the Millennium Development Goals, ADB's chief economist Isfal Ali says: "MDG targets may only be achieved if we zero-in on health and education for the poor. Unless we do this, it's difficult to imagine achieving anything meaningful over the next 10 years."

He says Malaysia and Vietnam have concentrated on health and education for the poor and are closer to meeting the goals of reducing poverty than the Philippines.

It's not a question of infrastructure on the one hand or health and education on the other. We need both. But what is top priority for the common good? The poor shouldn't be sacrificed for economic growth. The needs of poor children for food, medicine and schooling are immediate and call to the heavens for answers.

If poverty lessens, the women can come home from Hong Kong. The women in Baseco can stop crying. Maybe even Negros will know peace, and the garbage dump in Cabuyao will be just a bad memory.

Denis Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates.

Emergency rule

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared on Feb. 24, 2006 was supposed to have lasted only one week. But events in the last six months suggest a different conclusion: emergency rule may have, in fact, become Ms Arroyo's paradigm of governance.

In various parts of the country today, the military conducts its operations against so-called "communist terrorists" as if the normal rights of citizens are effectively suspended. Curfews are imposed. Soldiers demand *cedulas* or identity papers from residents they accost in the streets. They enter homes and interrogate people without warrants. They "invite" residents to gather in plazas and community halls to watch video presentations and listen to military lectures identifying the "enemies of the state." Leaders of activist organizations are murdered on an almost daily basis by masked men in motorcycles. Many others are abducted and never heard from again.

The law says the President cannot be sued; that she can only be impeached. Yet any attempt to make Ms Arroyo accountable by impeachment is blocked because she controls the House of Representatives.

The Supreme Court under Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban sought to restrain executive adventurism by drawing the line on presidential prerogatives. But its three landmark decisions (on the constitutionality of the calibrated preemptive response, Executive Order 464 and Presidential Proclamation 1017) have failed to deter Ms Arroyo from exploring the outer limits of the law. Instead, the equivocation inherent in the three rulings gave Malacañang enough ground to justify its controversial actions, and to proceed as if the Court had not ruled at all.

The Court declared that the CPR has no place in our democracy. But because it also affirmed the constitutionality of BP 880 (the public assembly law promulgated during martial law), truncheon-wielding police forces have continued to block and disperse peaceful rallies. The Court recognized the right of Congress to summon high public officials, including members of the Cabinet and the armed forces, to investigations in aid of legislation. But it also gave the executive enough leeway to snub these investigations and prevent its officials from appearing in such hearings. The Court declared as illegal the actions that the police and the armed forces committed under PP 1017. But in affirming 1017 as consistent with the executive's constitutional right to declare a state of national emergency, the Court also effectively legitimized its basic premises.

The underlying thesis of these premises is that opposition politicians, members of militant groups and renegade soldiers have conspired with the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army to overthrow the duly constituted authority. Ms Arroyo's assumption of emergency powers on Feb. 24 was, according to this thesis, a prerogative that the Constitution grants to the President in order to defend the state. While the Court ruled that the declaration of a state of emergency did not give the President new powers, it tacitly recognized the validity of Malacañang's assessment of the national situation. By implication, it thus sanctions all actions directed against the participants of this supposed conspiracy, including the crackdown against elements suspected of having any link to the communist movement.

The ambivalence of these Supreme Court rulings, perhaps, only reflects the general public's own confused attitude toward Ms Arroyo. Survey after survey documents the public's lack of trust in her and the sustained disapproval of her actions. Yet, for some reason or the other, the public seems unable to imagine that any alternative could be better. In a most ironic way, Ms Arroyo, who came to power on the wings of popular outrage, has managed to exploit the people's yearning for political stability and their growing aversion to extra-constitutional solutions. She has deflected persistent challenges against the legitimacy of her presidency by exaggerating the communist threat, and by using the paranoia over terrorism as a cover to shield her own government's campaign of terror against political dissenters.

By our acquiescence, we contribute to the dangerous institutionalization of an undeclared emergency that allows the police and the military to ride roughshod over our basic democratic rights. When we allow legitimacy to be de-linked from law and public morals, in the mistaken belief that politics is merely about numbers, then we reward political survival at any cost.

There is probably no other way of making sense of the recent impeachment proceedings in the justice committee of the House of Representatives except by viewing them in these terms. The rules that governed the proceedings were stripped of whatever ethical content they had. In this impoverished form, they became no more than resources for partisan play rather than as guides to just and reasonable action.

I watched the final hearing of the committee from the gallery with no illusion that the final vote might produce a miracle, but hoping to be surprised by flashes of principled conduct from some of the grizzled members of the majority. What I saw instead was the sorry spectacle of old men embarrassing themselves in front of their much younger colleagues by their assiduous sophistry and utter disregard of ideals. The nation surely deserves better leaders, but so long as the present electoral system is unreformed, not many good Filipinos will have a chance to enter Congress except as spectators.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Cheating in nursing exams

IT WAS A CLEAR CASE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST. GEORGE CORDERO WAS THE PRESIDENT OF the Philippine Nurses Association (PNA), which nominates members of the Board of Nursing (BON), the group that prepares the questions for the nursing board examinations, when the exams were administered on June 11 and 12.

Cordero also happens to be the owner of a school for health sciences, including nursing, and a review center in Manila.

Cheating marred the board exams, with certain questions given to scores of examinees beforehand.

It appears that the review center that "leaked" the questions is Cordero's Institute for Review and Special Studies (Inress). Nursing graduates who had enrolled at Inress and the R.A. Gapuz Review Center had been furnished a number of questions and answers for Tests III and V before the exams.

At a Senate hearing on Wednesday, a nursing graduate, who took review classes at Inress, spoke of the questions leaked by the review center.

Another examinee claimed that Cordero had boasted that he did not pay P7 million for nothing and that he brought two BON members to Switzerland and paid for the trip, according to the notes that the BON submitted to the Senate.

Amid these allegations, Cordero resigned as PNA president. He has not responded to the allegations.

The controversy has not been settled. The Professional Regulation Commission has given the go-signal for the oath-taking of some 17,000 who passed the board exams. Acting on a petition by a group of students, nurses and school officials, the Court of Appeals stopped on Friday the oath-taking.

The group calls for the nullification of the results, saying that the leakage would cause "irreparable damage" to the country's "public health" and the prospects of Filipino nurses working abroad.

Confession of an examinee

By Dennis Cesar Alba Bautista

AFTER GRADUATION, I ENROLLED at the Pentagon Review Center on España Boulevard in Manila for the comprehensive review course and at the R.A. Gapuz Review Center Manila for the final coaching course in preparation for the June 11-12, 2006 nursing licensure exams.

I also attended review classes at the Inress Review Center on C.M. Recto Avenue in Manila. Inress is considered the in-house review school of the Philippine College of Health Sciences Inc. (PCHS).

Review classes of Inress are held at PCHS. As graduates of PCHS, we're encouraged by the school to take our review course only at Inress.

On or about June 6, 2006, I went to my school and learned that Inress would conduct a "final coaching" on June 8 and June 9 in the morning at SM Manila. So, on that dates, I went to the mall.

Before starting the "final coaching," George Cordero, whom I know as the president and owner of PCHS and Inress, and president of the Philippine Nurses Association, welcomed all of us present and made a roll call of the different schools and colleges he had invited.

Topnotchers

Cordero said, "Last year our passing rate was high. Last sem our rate was average but we had four topnotchers. This time I want a high passing rate again and many on the top 10. If you're on the top 10, I will return your tuition. But the doctors [who took up nursing] are excluded."

Afterwards, Cordero told us that the topics included in the final coaching were only psychiatric nursing and medical-surgical nursing. Psychiatric nursing will be on the first day while medical-surgical nursing will be on the second.

In substance, he told us, "These are the items included because these are the difficult parts of the exam. You can handle the remaining three topics because you studied them at the review classes. We have 500 questions in psychiatric nursing, 100 questions will come out in the test."

Then, the "final coaching" proceeded. The 500 questions were projected on the screen through a Powerpoint presentation. A review instructor read each question and the four possible answer-choices as they flashed on the screen. After reading the possible answers, the instructor would tell us the correct one, and, correspondingly, the correct answer on the screen was highlighted.

Keyword

At times, when the instructor told us what the correct answer was to a particular question, the crowd reacted loudly, impressing on the instructor that the answer given might be wrong. And so the instructor would just tell us "*Basta*, that's the answer. If you see that keyword, that's what you should answer."

On June 9, Cordero again welcomed all of us and made a roll call of the different schools and colleges he had invited. He told us, "For medical-surgical nursing, we only have 300 questions because you discussed the others at your review centers."

Just like the previous day, every time the instructor heard a loud reaction from the crowd when it gave the correct answer, the instructor said, "That will be your answer when you see the keyword."

During the two-day final coaching, some of my friends were able to write down the questions and situations and the suggested answers that were flashed on the screen. At first, I took down some notes, but because I got tired writing I decided to just listen. Later, I asked my classmates and friends for photocopies of their notes or I had their notes photocopied. So, after the final coaching, I was able to get a photocopy of the questions and situations and their suggested answers.

On June 11, the first day of the nursing board exams, I was surprised when I took the exams because around 25 items in Test III (medical-surgical) were similar to the questions that were flashed during the final coaching at SM Manila. The situations and the names of persons given in the exam were exactly the same as those flashed on the screen at SM Manila. When I went home, I checked my photocopies and confirmed that the items given at the exam were indeed similar.

Similar

On June 12, the second day of the nursing board exams, I was again surprised that in Test V (psychiatric nursing) around 90 items were similar to the ones which were flashed on the screen during the final coaching at the SM Manila cinema.

The situation and the names of persons given in the exam were exactly the same as the questions flashed on the screen during our final coaching. When I went home, I again checked my photocopies and confirmed that the items given at the exam were indeed similar.

While waiting for the results of the board exams, I learned from the news that there was a leakage in the board exams. So I texted some of my classmates, fearing that we might be asked by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) to retake the board exams.

The following day, I met a friend of mine and we talked about the news and the leakage during the board exams and the possibility that the these would be nullified. My friend suggested that we ask Cordero about it so that we can have a reliable source. My friend gave me the number of Cordero and we texted him, asking about the news and the possibility of retaking the exam.

I was surprised that he called back my number. I received his call. He angrily said, "Who is this?" I was surprised and caught off-guard by his call. I said "I am Cesar Alba of Bataan Group (my knowledge is that Bataan Group refers to the schools in Bataan, which have the Inress Review Center as their in-house review school).

Cordero said, "I didn't see it. What did it say?" So, I told him that the news said there was a possibility of the board exams being nullified and of the examinees retaking them. He replied, "I don't know anything about that." So I said, "Sir, if you want, I can forward to you other messages that I received." He said, "*Sige*, please."

After my first talk with Cordero over the phone, I continued to text him and forwarded to him messages I had received about the issue. For several days after our first conversation, he would call me after he received my text messages. I was surprised that he would call me, but it gave me the impression that he trusted me.

Dinner

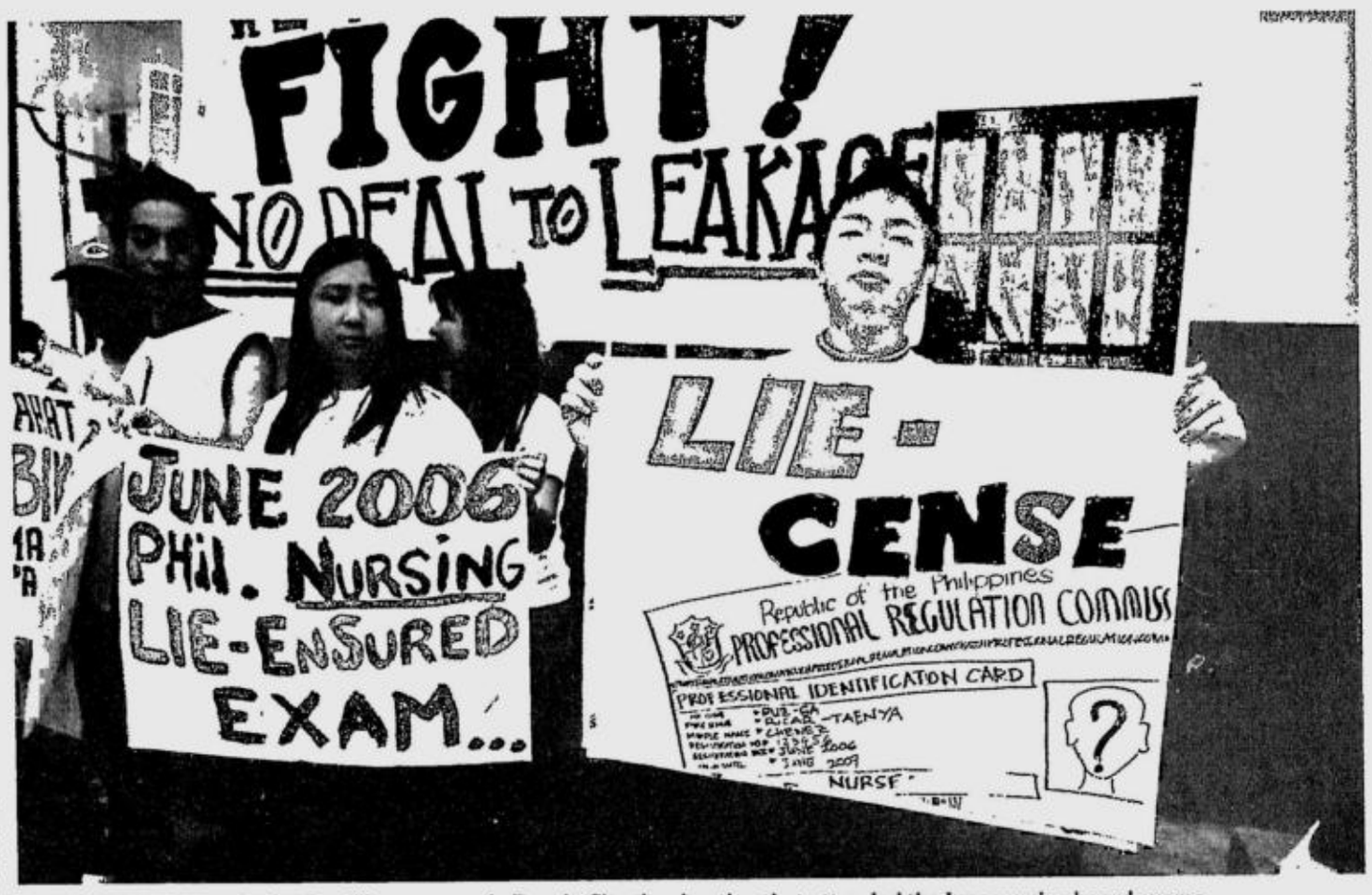
On several occasions that Cordero called me, he said the following: "*Hindi pwedeng mangyari ang* retake *kasi malaking gastos 'yun*;" "I will schedule a dinner with members of the PRC and Board of Nursing;" "I will meet with owners of review centers. Don't they want the NCLEX [National Council Licensure Examination] to be held here next year?"

I said to him, "Sir, be careful, you might be blackmailed." Cordero said, "No, I have a lawyer. Gapuz is pointing at me because a PCHS student gave him the materials. The evidence that the PRC holds is the photocopy of the handwritten materials from my student. *Walang kwentang bata 'yan*. Do you know who the materials are really for? For my child [son]."

I replied, "*Oo nga po*, sir. *Salamat po at hindi niyo ipinagdamot sa amin*," I then asked him, "Sir, *bakit kaya niya kailangan ibigay 'yun*?" Cordero said, "*Eh para ano pa, eh di 'sa pera*." "*Balita ko nga masama ang loob sa akin ng* member *ng* BON *na nagbigay, eh. Pag nagkaipitan naman, hindi ko sasabihin na siya. Sasabihin ko lang na may nagbigay sa akin, hindi ko kilala tapos binigyan ko kunwari ng* P20,000."

When I went to PCHS, I learned from our school registrar that the student who was mentioned by Cordero as the one who gave the photocopy to [Ray] Gapuz, [owner of a network of review centers] was Pamela Ortega, a second-courser student.

(Excerpts of the affidavit read by Bautista on Wednesday at the Senate hearing on the nursing exams leakage. He is a BS Nursing graduate of the Philippine College of Health Sciences Inc.)



NURSING graduates in the Cordillera protest in Baguio City the cheating that attended the June nursing board exams.

TOOTS SOBERANO / NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Number of examinees

Test center	Examinee
Manila	21,707
Baguio	6,521
Cagayan de Oro	1,809
Cebu	3,305
Davao	2,580
Iloilo	2,424
Legazpi	1,388
Lucena	449
Tacloban	204
Tuguegarao	390
Zamboanga	1,229
Total	42,006

SOURCE: PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION

RAFFY LERMA

INRESS Review Center on Claro M. Recto Avenue in Manila

Board of Nursing

- Eufemia F. Octaviano (chair)
- Remedios L. Fernandez
- Letty G. Kuan
- Estelita T. Galutira
- Virginia D. Madeja
- Anesia B. Dionisio

R.A. GAPUZ Review Center on Adriatico Street in Ermita, Manila.

RAFFY LERMA

Tuition of nursing review classes

RA Gapuz Review Center
P13,400
for a three-week review

Inress
P10,000
six weeks

Royal Pentagon
P14,500
September to December

SOURCE: BASED ON PHONE INQUIRIES BY CYRIL BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH

Board member admits leaked notes were hers

IN A DESIRE TO LOOK INto the "alleged" leakage, members of the Board of Nursing tried to get related materials. Thus, Dr. [Letty] Kuan called Ray Gapuz if he had any material on the "alleged" leakage because it was his review center that was put in the limelight.

On the morning of June 17, at 8 a.m., Gapuz came to the place of Kuan on Singalong Street in Manila, bringing along with him 18 pages of handwritten notes. Chair [Eufemia] Octaviano, who lived nearby, joined Kuan in the dorm and she received the 18 pages of handwritten notes from Gapuz.

It was PRC outreach day. The Board members were together on the ground floor when this set of handwritten notes was shared. [Anesia] Dionisio was shown the notes and immediately she said "*Ay, akin itong* situation *na ito*, (referring to the situation of Lilia ...) As there were nurses from Zones 1, 2 and 4 who were helping in the outreach project, and who heard her, we told her to be discreet.

At about 6 p.m., Gapuz called up Kuan, saying that he was coming over with an examinee who had typewritten notes of the "alleged" leaked items. Thus, at that time, Octaviano came and together with Kuan, received the typewritten notes and talked to the female examinee. The paper contained 495 situations with choices and answers.

Conscience

The examinee, Pamela Ortega, voluntarily came out in the open in the midst of this "leakage news" because her conscience bothered her and she wanted to tell the truth. She said she was willing to testify even on TV.

Ortega finished her degree in medical technology from the University of Santo Tomas. She took up a second course, Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the Philippine College of Health Sciences Inc. (PCHS). When queried why she chose PCHS, she said it had a flexible schedule.

She said there was no clinical experience requirement. Being a PCHS graduate, she was enrolled for the review classes at the Inress Review Center. She paid P50,000. Because she was not satisfied with the review classes, she enrolled at the R.A. Gapuz Review Center.

According to Pamela, on the evening of June 9, George Cordero asked PCHS graduates to go to the SM Mall hall for an enhancement review classes. She attended the classes. Cordero had a stapled set of papers and told the graduates to study very well the questions because 100 questions from that set will surely come out in the board exams.

When she took Test V on June 12, all the situations, choices and questions were exactly what were in the notes. It was so easy for them and the test took them only 30 minutes, while others sweated it out. She felt bad about this.

Payment of P7 million

On the night of June 9, Cordero told them [the graduates] that he did not pay P7 million for nothing, and that he brought two BON members to Switzerland and paid for the trip.

He assured the second coursers that they need not undergo interviews because the BON would readily sign their application forms, as they were his friends.

Two reviewers of Cordero flashed the situations, questions and answers on the screen that night. They had time to copy, some by long hand. Others brought laptops and still others portable typewriters. Thus, she had a copy of the typewritten notes, which other students and review centers also had from that enhancement classes and which she submitted to Octaviano and Kuan on the evening of June 17.

Octaviano and Kuan thanked Pamela for her good act and for the information.

(Notes by Eufemia F. Octaviano and Letty G. Kuan of Pamela Ortega's testimony that was presented at the Senate hearing. Octaviano is the chair and Kuan a member of the Board of Nursing.)

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg.
Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

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VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
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Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

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Cedula rush to earn ₱20M for gov't

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—SOW TERROR AND earn at least P20 million in taxes from Nueva Ecija and Bulacan residents alone.

That, according to the militant fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), has been the two-fold aim of the cedula system practiced by soldiers under Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division operating in Central Luzon.

The military's latest tack in hunting communist rebels requires villagers to show their cedula (community tax certificate or CTC) as proof of their legitimate residency, reports say.

Those who would fail to present the document risk being suspected as rebels or punished by soldiers.

The fear bred by this identification system has sent residents, even those below 18 years old, scrambling to the offices of the city or town treasurer to get their cedula.

Palparan had denied that such a system, or even a policy, was in place amid the military's all-out war to wipe out communist rebels in two years. At the most, he said, the cedula search is applied on suspicious persons.

Palparan called these reports "black propaganda" by Left-leaning organizations and the New People's Army.

Fernando Hicap, Pamalakaya chair, said Palparan, who political activists have called a "butcher" for allegedly orchestrating the killings, was "hitting two birds with one stone" in the campaign.

"One is to terrorize people and the second objective is to make money from collections," Hicap said in a statement here.

The P20 million, he said, was a "bonus prize for the state terror campaign" by Palparan.

Hicap said at a basic community tax of P5, the government stands to earn P8.3 million from Nueva Ecija's 1,659,883 residents in 27 towns and five cities.

In Bulacan, the collections could reach P11.7 million from 2,234,088 residents of 22 towns and two cities.

If the cedula would be required on a monthly basis, he said the collections could go as high as P240 million yearly.

In a phone interview on Saturday, Palparan called Pamalakaya's allegations as "unimaginable."

"These are all the effects of the propaganda of the Left and the NPA," he said, adding that he was tired of reading the stories on the cedula system for days now in the papers.

"We are not raising money here. We are fighting the enemies," he said.

GMA promises ₱500M to help ARMM projects

COTABATO CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo agreed to release P500 million as augmentation fund for the economically-struggling Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), according to Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan.

ARMM has already spent its P650 million annual aid for five years.

The ARMM leadership is in the process of asking Congress to extend the grant of the P650 million yearly subsidy as embodied in Republic Act No. 9054, the law that created the expanded ARMM.

"We are very much thankful to the President's concern knowing that the region's P8.3 billion budget this year is not enough to fast track development and be at par with the other regions in the country," Ampatuan said.

According to Ampatuan, the President assured him and the local leaders of ARMM of their constituents' welfare.

Ms Arroyo promised a P500-million fund assistance, while officials of the autonomous government were lobbying Congress' approval of its request for a supplemental budget of P1.3 billion, he said.

Ampatuan said that out of the P8.3 billion budget, 60 percent goes to personnel services, 22 percent to maintenance and operating expenses and 18 percent for capital outlay.

In a regional Cabinet meeting last week, Ampatuan underscored the need to monitor all ongoing projects and ensure that reporting of project accomplishments on paper should match with the actual situation on the ground.

"I don't want to hear inconsistencies in your reporting," said Ampatuan, addressing himself to the ARMM Cabinet.

"I made a commitment to the people, to help uplift their living condition and develop the region physically and economically. Please help me. Let's help one another," was Ampatuan's appeal.

Lawyer Arnel Datukon, in charge of the region's social fund that takes care of foreign-assisted projects, said Ampatuan's governing policy of "transparency and accountability" rated ARMM's project implementation as "very satisfactory" by the World Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar said various ongoing infrastructure projects in his province "only shows that the regional governor is sincere in developing ARMM." *Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

Govs back Palawan stake on Malampaya

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—THE LEAGUE OF Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) recently issued a resolution declaring full support to the province of Palawan in its claim over the Malampaya natural gas.

In an assembly held this month, the league passed LPP Resolution No. 2006-027 throwing support to Palawan's bid to get an equitable share in the proceeds from the use and development of the natural gas found within its territorial jurisdiction.

Since the commercial operation of the $4.5-billion project in 2001, Palawan has not yet received its legal share from the gas revenues, which are projected by the Department of Energy at $2.1 billion over a 20-year period starting 2002.

The national government under President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration does not recognize Palawan's claim.

According to several public pronouncements of the President, the natural gas project is outside the territorial jurisdiction of Palawan.

In reaction, the provincial government filed a petition at the Palawan Regional Trial Court to insist on Palawan's ownership of the mineral-rich Malampaya in Northern Palawan.

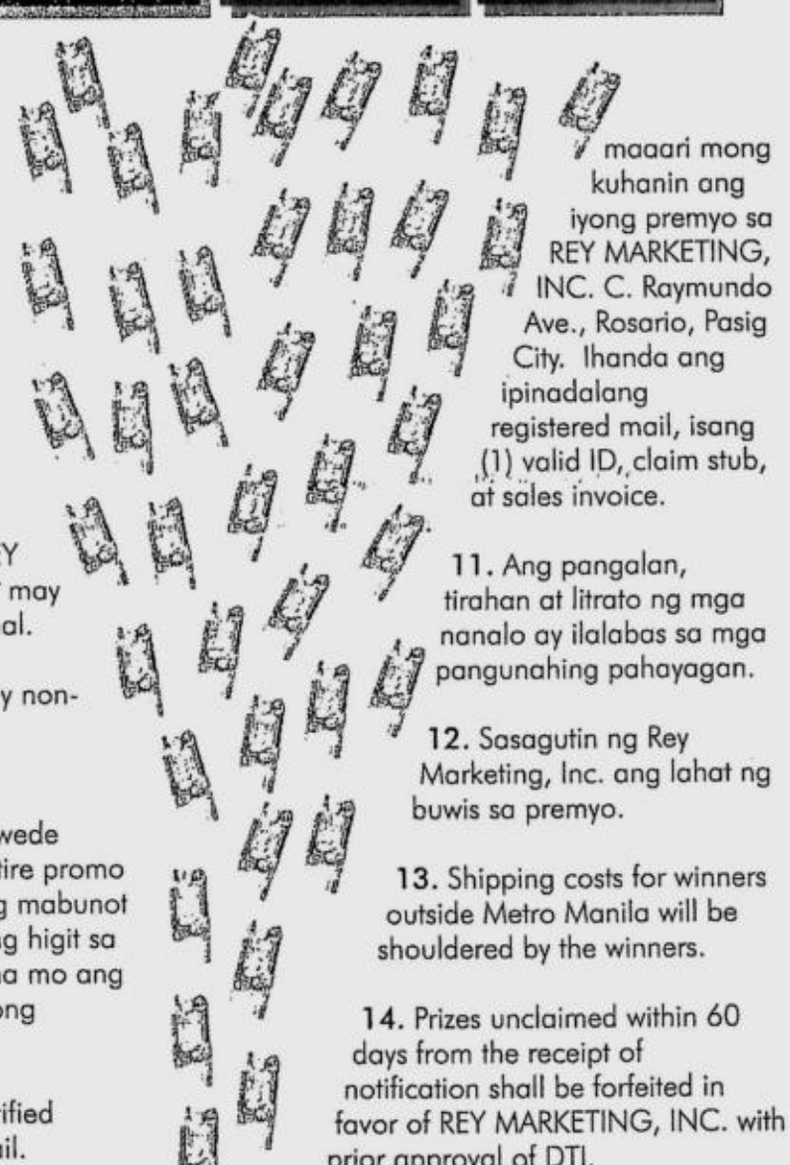
RTC Judge Bienvenido C. Blancaflor ruled in favor of Palawan by saying that it was entitled to the 40-percent share of the national wealth, according to the provisions of the Constitution.

Blancaflor has also granted a request to freeze the share of Malampaya and ordered the release of Palawan's share.

The Office of the Solicitor General, representing the national government, elevated the petition to the Supreme Court. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

PANALO KA sa REY

Libo-Libong Pera at Exciting Showcases ang Ipamimigay!



PAANO MAGING PANALO:

1. Mayroon kang isang (1) raffle ticket sa bawat P 500 na halaga ng iyong binili (single receipt or accumulated) sa anumang Rey Home Center o Ceramics Plus branches mula Agosto 15, 2006 hanggang Nobyembre 15, 2006.

2. Ipakita ang invoice ng iyong pinamili sa tauhan ng Rey Marketing, Inc.. Tatatakan ng "Claimed" ng taga-Rey Marketing ang iyong invoice at isusulat ang invoice no. at pangalan ng branch sa stub. Ibibigay ng taga-Rey Marketing ang may tatak na invoice at sinulatang stub sa iyo. Pakisulat ang iyong pangalan, tirahan, contact no. sa stub. Pirmahan. Ihulog ang stub sa Rey drop box.

3. Deadline for submission of entries will be on November 15, 2006 at store's closing time.

4. Ang mananalo ay bubunutin sa loob ng Rey Marketing Pasig Showroom, C. Raymundo Ave., Rosario, Pasig City on November 29, 2006, sa harapan ng Rey Marketing representative at DTI representative.

5. Ito ang mga exciting prizes na ipamimigay :
Major Prizes
P100,000.00 CASH plus Bedroom Showcase
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P100,000.00 CASH plus Kitchen Showcase

Consolation Prizes
•Twenty (20) Five Thousand Pesos Rey Marketing Gift Certificate
•Three (3) units Sharp TV 21VFP75M 21"
•Ten (10) Ten Thousand Pesos Rey Marketing Gift Certificate

6. Ang desisyon ng REY MARKETING, INC. na may approval ng DTI ay final.

7. Ang mga premyo ay non-transferable and non-convertible to cash.

8. Isang beses lang pwede manalo during the entire promo period. Kung sakaling mabunot ang iyong pangalan ng higit sa isang beses, makukuha mo ang mas malaking premyong ipinamimigay.

9. Winners will be notified through registered mail.

10. Kung ikaw ay panalo, maaari mong kuhanin ang iyong premyo sa REY MARKETING, INC. C. Raymundo Ave., Rosario, Pasig City. Ihanda ang ipinadalang registered mail, isang (1) valid ID, claim stub, at sales invoice.

11. Ang pangalan, tirahan at litrato ng mga nanalo ay ilalabas sa mga pangunahing pahayagan.

12. Sasagutin ng Rey Marketing, Inc. ang lahat ng buwis sa premyo.

13. Shipping costs for winners outside Metro Manila will be shouldered by the winners.

14. Prizes unclaimed within 60 days from the receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of REY MARKETING, INC. with prior approval of DTI.

15. Ang mga empleyado ng REY MARKETING, INC or CERAMICS PLUS, INC., their affiliates, and all their suppliers, and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity ay hindi maaaring sumali sa promo.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2700 Series of 2006

Cops say they busted land grabbing syndicate

LUCENA CITY—POLICE SAID they busted the operations of a big-time professional land grabbing and squatting syndicate planning to dupe thousands of landless residents in Guinayangan, Quezon, some 255 km south of Manila.

In a report submitted Aug. 12 to the Quezon police headquarters here in Camp Nakar, Insp. Moreno Batibot, Guinayangan police chief, identified the syndicate as the Wilfredo Sumulong Torres group, known in national police files as one of the biggest gangs of professional land grabbers in the country.

Reports said one Andree Lagdameo, owner of a parcel of land in the village of Calimpak, filed a complaint at the local police station about unidentified persons who illegally installed several billboards inside her lot.

Lagdameo presented TCT-T-3020 registered under the name of the late Adela and Aurora Lagdameo as proof that her family owns the piece of property.

The billboard reads: "No Trespassing Private Property, Pinagcamaligan Indo-Agro Development Corp. (Piadeco), Supreme Court decision in Civil Case No. 3035-M promulgated June 28, 1968."

Police invited for questioning brothers Jim and Bayani Montalbo, residents of Sariaya, Quezon, who were tagged by residents as the ones who put up the billboards.

The two introduced themselves as representatives of Piadeco with offices at Rm. 205 Cabrera II Bldg. No. 64, Timog Avenue, Quezon City.

Police said Bayani has also been introducing himself in the area as an official from the Ombudsman's office.

Authorities found that the two have distributed a so-called "Certificate of Occupancy" to at least seven families residing inside Lagdameo's property in exchange for P2,500 supposedly as processing fee for a home lot.

The certificate was signed by Wilfredo Sumulong Torres as Piadeco chair and the Montalbo brothers as area coordinator and control officer.

In a phone interview, Calimpak village chieftain Recy Villanueva also disclosed that Balbino Virtucio, one of her barangay policemen, was also fooled by the syndicate and had already handed more than P100,000 to the Montalbos in exchange for the right to own at least 11 hectares of land in Guinayangan.

Reports said the Montalbos claimed that the entire Guinayangan town, which has a total land area of 22,800 hectares, is part of the huge property of Piadeco under an ancient title.

Police said the two vouched for the legality of the Spanish title based on an alleged Supreme Court decision on June 28, 1968.

However, Lagdameo, who has been helping the police gather evidence against the syndicate, managed to secure a certified photocopy of a Supreme Court decision on Dec. 18, 1996 that had declared "Titulo de Propriedad Nos. 4136" as "null and void."

Lagdameo also found that Piadeco was not a listed company at the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"We believe that we have successfully foiled the plan of the syndicate to deceive thousands of unwary landless residents of Guinayangan," Batibot said.

He said they were forced to release the Montalbo brothers due to the absence of criminal charges against the two.

Lagdameo said she also reported the case to the Camp Crame-based Anti-Squatting Task Force and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council for proper action against the syndicate.

It was learned that Torres is also allegedly the subject of a police investigation over charges of large-scale estafa and land grabbing involving huge tracts of land in the provinces of Bulacan and Rizal. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

CURIOSITY EDWIN BACASMAS
A girl peeps through the balusters of a school in Legazpi City to take a glimpse of President Macapagal-Arroyo who came to visit villagers who were evacuated from communities near Mayon.

ROUNDUP

Ex-village chief shot dead

LUCENA CITY—Two unidentified men on a motorcycle on Wednesday shot dead a former village chief in Candelaria, Quezon. A police report said Eleodoro Cruzat, 42, former chair of Barangay Buenavista West, was about to alight from his tricycle with his 14-year-old son still inside the sidecar when one of the suspects approached and shot him pointblank with a cal. 45 pistol. The victim managed to fight back and stab the suspect with his fan knife but the gunman kept on firing until Cruzat fell to the ground due to multiple bullet wounds in the body. A bystander, identified as Alvin Panopio, was hit by a stray bullet in the right arm. The wounded assailant fled on a red motorcycle. Police have yet to establish the motive for the killing

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Woman dies in Cebu fire

CEBU CITY—An elderly woman died after she was trapped in her house in a fire that razed 22 houses in the densely populated Sitio Maharlika, Tipolo, Mandaue City on Thursday morning. Mandaue City fire investigator SFO1 Roy Garcia identified the victim as Necesaria Caray, 65, whose body was recovered after the 15-minute fire that occurred at 8:30 a.m Garcia said Caray was alone in the house since her husband was out working. A fireman, identified as FO2 Ramon Bathan, suffered first degree burns in the left arm after debris fell on him. The fire started in the house of Anita Elorde who claimed that the fire could have been caused by defective electrical wires strung by his neighbors above the roof of her house

Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas

2 rebs slain in Surigao clash

TANDAG, Surigao del Sur—Two communist rebels were killed while a policeman was injured in a clash in San Agustin town around 11:15 a.m. Tuesday. Caraga police director Chief Supt. Antonio Nañas, said a clash ensued when about 100 New People's Army rebels stormed the San Agustin police station. He said about a dozen policemen were in the station during the attack. The firefight lasted for more than an hour before the rebels retreated. The bodies of the slain rebels had been recovered, Nañas said. He identified the wounded policeman as SPO3 Gil Moreno. Hundreds of passengers were also stranded when traffic was stalled because of the clash

Bert Pacate, Inquirer Mindanao

Davao Sur's most wanted nabbed

DIGOS CITY—Police on Thursday forced the surrender of Davao del Sur's most wanted person. Alonto Benasing, 27, surrendered to the police after about two hours of negotiations, according to Chief Insp. Cesar Cabuhat, city police chief. Senior Supt. Anselmo Pinili, provincial police chief, said police raided Benasing's house in Barangay Aplaya. The suspect has been in hiding for months. Members of the 1103rd provincial mobile group and the provincial and city intelligence division were ready to launch an assault on Benasing when he surrendered. Cabuhat said Benasing faces robbery, car theft, homicide, and rape cases before the local court here.

Eldie S. Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao

Top income taxpayer

COTABATO CITY—The Bureau of Internal Revenue cited Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan as the "top income taxpayer" in south-central Mindanao which covers Sarangani, South Cotabato, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao provinces. BIR regional director Rodita Galanto said a "plaque of recognition" had been awarded to Ampatuan. Galanto declined to state the exact amount paid by Ampatuan, a resident of Maguindanao. However, she said the gesture of the governor was a gesture worthy of emulation. A similar award was also given boxing icon Manny Pacquiao, of General Santos City, for having paid the highest income tax for year 2004.

Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

City dad in beating

SAN PABLO CITY—A city councilor who figured in the beating of a community paper columnist and cable television host in this city is again accused of manhandling another journalist on Friday night. Aldrin Cacayan, editor of a local weekly and a cable TV reporter here, has complained to the city police office here that city councilor Edgar Adajar beat him up at about 8 p.m. on Aug. 18 in an undisclosed place in this city. Cacayan said he immediately went to the San Pablo City Hospital for minor injuries and then complained to the police. Recently, Adajar also figured in an alleged beating of another journalist, Ireneo Maranan, a cable TV host and columnist. The incident was caught on camera and shown on national TV. Adajar, however, denied hurting Maranan because he said he was only joking when he held the victim by his hands. The councilor could not be reached for comment concerning Cacayan's complaints.

Inquirer Southern Luzon

Biliran starts health program with Japan funds

By Vicente Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—MOTHERS and children in the island province of Biliran were given new hopes for proper health care with the implementation of a $1.5-million health project that was funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica).

Biliran Gov. Rogelio Espina said the Jica-funded Maternal and Child Health Care project aims to reduce the high maternal and infant mortality rates in the province.

"We are glad that our province has been chosen by the Jica as one of the recipients of their development initiatives, through the Maternal and Child Health care program, where we aim to reduce this mortality incidence through a four-year technical and assistance package," Espina said.

He said with the assistance in hand, they "are looking for Biliran to have an enhanced maternal and child health care delivery system at all levels of health care delivery."

During the four-year project implementation, Espina said they hoped to strengthen emergency obstetric care service delivery and establish a system at all levels to support pregnant mothers and newborns.

"With this kind of cooperation and a proactive service delivery that I have started to implement in this province, I am confident that we will be able to attain these in time," the governor said.

Dr. Alfonso Veneracion, Biliran provincial health officer, earlier reported that Biliran has the highest maternal mortality rate at 287 per 1,000 population and ranks second in infant mortality rate at 167 per 1,000 population in Eastern Visayas.

One of the components of the Jica-funded health care program is the provision of medical equipment to some 35 barangay health stations and to all barangay health centers in the 132 barangays of Biliran province.

The project also includes the provision of a sea ambulance that would transport patients from the island town of Maripipi to the capital town of Naval where the provincial hospital is located.

Among those who attended the project launching last Aug. 11 were Dr. Norito Araki, health attaché of Japan, and Dr. Yolanda Oliveros of the Department of Health central office.

Alternate fuel seen to grow from 2M ha of idle land

By Norman Bordadora

IF EVERYTHING GOES ACCORDing to plan, the country's deforested mountains will soon teem with trees that will not only protect the earth from erosion and flood but would also provide huge quantities of alternate fuel for the country.

Rodolfo Lozada, president and chief executive officer of the Philippine Forest Corp. or PhilForest, said the government has made available all unproductive public lands for the planting of *tuba-tuba* trees.

"The decision to pursue the commercial cultivation of the *tuba-tuba* tree for bio-diesel production forms part of the government's total approach in reducing the nation's dependence on imported petroleum and other fossil fuels," Lozada said.

"All that we need is determination, which the Arroyo administration has shown with this initiative, and the cooperation of our farmers, individuals and corporate entities alike for us to achieve our goal of boosting bio-diesel production to a level that would comfortably meet our needs," he added.

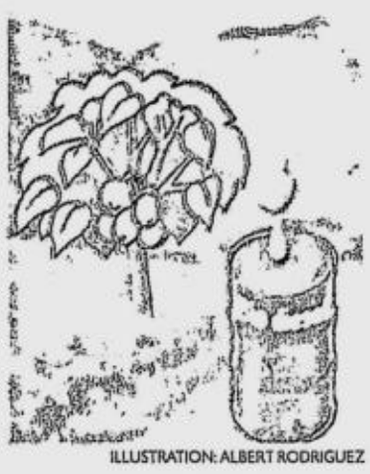

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The fruit of the *tuba-tuba*, or jetropha, has seeds that yield a high concentration of oil that can, immediately upon extraction, be used for low rpm diesel engines that run generators and farm implements such as water pumps, threshers and hand tractors, or the *kuliglig*.

"With a minimum of processing, the *tuba-tuba* bio-diesel can run diesel-powered motor vehicles," Lozada said.

PhilForest, a subsidiary of the Natural Resources Development Corp. under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, was created in compliance with President Macapagal-Arroyo's instruction in October 2004 to step up reforestation.

It was organized as a stock corporation, wholly government-owned and controlled, on Jan. 24.

PhilForest has been given the responsibility to undertake the agro-reforestation projects of the NRDC, the primary corporate arm of the DENR.

PhilForest's *tuba-tuba* cultivation projects will cover public idle lands, such as mountain sides and denuded forests.

"This is to ensure that *tuba-tuba* cultivation does not encroach into farmlands already devoted to food and other commercial crops," Lozada said.

PhilForest records show that 2 million hectares of public land will be available for planting *tuba-tuba*.

"Individuals or organized farmers and agribusiness companies interested in joining the project," he said, "will be allowed access to these state properties by complying with minimal requirements set by PhilForest."

"Besides producing an alternative and renewable energy product for the country, the project is intended to generate badly needed jobs and livelihood opportunities in the rural areas and eventually, sustain economic growth," Lozada said.

Lozada said that even if only 2 million hectares of the idle lands are planted to *tuba-tuba* in 10 to 15 years, this would allow the local production of 5.6 million liters of bio-diesel a year.

"(This is a) volume sufficient to make a significant contribution to the domestic demand of seven billion liters a year," Lozada said.

WATER RESORT Camarines Sur Gov. Elray Villafuerte, who is also chair of the Philippine Waterski and Wakeboard Federation (PWWF), receives from Kuno Ritschard, International Waterski Federation (IWF) president, a banner symbolizing the accreditation by the IWF of the PWWF.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

'Dream weavers' spread B'laan culture

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
Malapatan, Sarangani

FOR THE B'LAAN WOMEN OF Upper Lasang in Malapatan, Sarangani, mat weaving is a product of both traditional belief and art.

Weaving, in B'laan culture, is an expression of the women's relationship with their god D'wata. Each mat has a unique design inspired by divine guidance, as well as their dreams and creative imagination. Hence, the women are popularly called the "dream weavers."

When he assumed his post in 2004, Gov. Miguel Dominguez initiated programs to help uplift the living conditions of indigenous peoples (IPs) and to preserve their beliefs, cultures and traditions. He created the Indigenous People's Development Program (IPDP) to look after the welfare of the IPs and the School of Living Traditions (SLTs).

At present, Sarangani has three SLTs, which serve not only as knowledge centers but also as exhibit areas for indigenous arts, products, designs and crafts. They are found in the village of Upper Lasang, Lamlifew in Malungon town, and Maligang in Kiamba town.

The school in Upper Lasang focuses on preserving the B'laan art of mat weaving; SLT-Lamlifew features "*tabih*" or the B'laan art of cloth-making; and the Maligang-SLT centers on the B'laan art of brass-making.

The SLTs are now part of the tourism culture circuit of the province. They receive assistance from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

A WEAVER trains youth on cloth-making.
PHOTOS BY AQUILES ZONIO

Preserved

Through the IPDP, the art of mat weaving in Upper Lasang has been preserved.

Elizabeth Farnazo, program manager, said that last year, the provincial government hired two master weavers—Marta Palawan, 58, and Masindan Tumandan, 66—to train youths on mat weaving.

Now, 18 students are helping the masters preserve and propagate the skills.

The weavers specialize on sleeping mats, although Farnazo has been encouraging them to venture into other products.

"Preserving such a craft is a source of joy for residents here especially women. We help them improve the quality of their products so while enjoying they are also earning," Farnazo said.

For now, the dream weavers consider mat weaving a mere leisure, not really a source of livelihood. According to them, orders are usually for personal use only.

Sacred

Tumandan, who learned to weave at 21, said the artworks served as a close link between man and his creator, and are thus sacred.

Before making any pattern or design, she said she first sought divine guidance. She believed that the the designs were imparted to the dreamer through the *l'nilong* (fairies), who were considered guardians of nature

But the dreamer, she said, would not tell what it was she saw for it was a private matter between her and the D'wata.

The raw materials and tools used include the *buli* or *romblon* leaves, a knife (*dileh*), dye (*galana*) made up of yellow, green, violet and red, and a wooden stick (*los*) to smoothen the dried leaves.

B'aan residents began planting the *buli* and *romblon* when demand for the products increased.

Before weaving, rituals are held in accordance with the B'laan culture, but only the weavers know about these.

The leaves are dried, dyed and woven.

For ordinary designs, preparation and weaving could take about two weeks. But for the intricate ones, the process could take more than a month.

Weavers cannot just work any time. Weaving is usually done at dawn, before bedtime or during the rainy season. The *buli* leaves are supple and easy to weave during these times, Tumandan said.

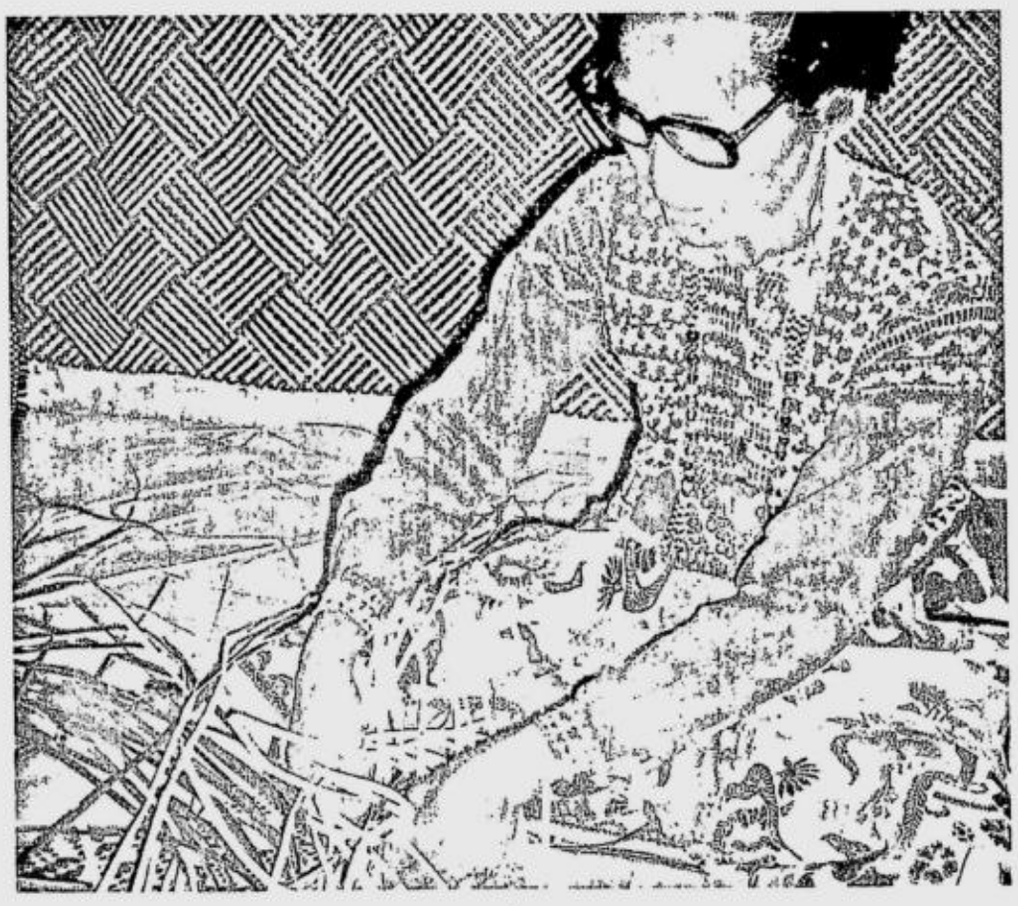
Tabih, one of the three vanishing arts of weaving among the IPs, has been preserved in Lamlifew as a result of the immediate intervention of the provincial government.

The governor's office, through the IPDP, commissioned two master weavers of the *tabih* to pass on the skills to the young.

Arsenia Vicente, 46, one of the two surviving weavers, said there were two complex designs—Tabih Foleh and Tabih Amlato. The latter is more intricate as it consists of more than 100 strands.

The Lamlifew school has also ventured into native handicraft, accessories and other products.

Helen Lumbos, president of the Lamlifew Tribal Women's Association, said her group earned around P45,000 last year from selling native products.



B'LAAN apparels are displayed in School of Living Traditions in Lamlifew. Masindan Tumandan, 66, weaves an intricate Kalbangi design. *(Photos at right)*

Magsaysay awardee walks with heroes daily

By Dennis Jay C. Santos
Davao City

EVERY DAY, HE WALKS WITH heroes, whom he credits for the phenomenal success of the Gawad Kalinga (GK) Foundation, according to Antonio Meloto, this year's winner of the Ramon Magsaysay award for community leadership.

"The thing is if you bring out the greatness in people then everyday you walk with heroes," Meloto said of the countless "extraordinary people" working silently to make the foundation the leading movement for poverty reduction by building homes for the poor.

Meloto, who was in Davao City on Aug. 13, said he did not expect the award to come. "We don't work for it," he said.

He would rather say that he was accepting the award in behalf of thousand of volunteer "Filipinos here and abroad and for people who have not stopped hoping for the country."

MELOTO DENNIS JAY SANTOS

"To me, it's an honor because Gawad Kalinga is restoring the honor and dignity of the people," he said.

The energy and enthusiasm of the Gawad Kalinga volunteers to help is what fuel and inspire everyone to do the same, he said.

Meloto believes in the infinite source of goodness and generosity among the Filipinos "but they just don't know how to unlock it."

Today, the GK foundation has extended its reach, drawing more Filipinos and even foreigners to join in their task.

Meloto said the group was now focusing on bringing at least a million volunteers in a program dubbed the "GK1MB" or Gawad Kalinga 1 Milyong Bayani (Heroes).

This will include, he said, a steady stream of Filipinos working and living abroad who have been donating to the foundation.

"There is still so much to be done," he said. "The country's problem is so massive that the government alone cannot address it."

Turning point

Meloto said the turning point in his life was when he joined the Couples for Christ movement in 1985.

He was 35 years old then and had decided to shun the corporate world and pursue dreaming of ways to help Filipinos without homes or land of their own.

Growing up in Bacolod City, Meloto said he was also a product of poverty. But education turned his fate around.

Although he has reached the higher level of his career in business, Meloto said something was amiss in his life, having in mind the countless people who desperately needed some help. The GK was thus born in 1995.

"To me, the greatest treasure is not in the pocket, but in the heart," he said.

Real hope

The GK is selling hope to the people, he said. But this hope can be felt and touched, "and not based on fantasies."

Thousands of families nationwide now have homes, and GK volunteers pitch in their resources and time to build more houses.

Currently in the pipeline work is the construction of thousands of houses in at least 3,000 hectares of donated land.

The foundation's grand aim is to have 700,000 homes in 7,000 communities in seven years or the "GK777" program

"We simply have to unite the nation for us to rise again," he said, adding that "this is a best time to be Filipino."

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NURSING STUDENT-MEMBERS of the National Union of Students of the Philippines dramatize the effect of the nursing board exam leak in a press conference yesterday. JOAN BONDOC

Invalidate oaths taken by nursing grads, CA urged

By Armand N. Nocum and Tina G. Santos

THE GROUP OF NURSING PROfessionals that successfully got the Court of Appeals to stop the scheduled Aug. 22 oath-taking of successful examinees of the tainted nursing licensure examinations yesterday asked the appellate court to "invalidate" the oaths that some 2,000 examinees took before the CA could issue a temporary restraining order.

In a "supplemental petition for prohibition" filed late Friday, the group asked the court to order the Professional Regulation Commission to "refrain" from implementing its Memorandum Order No. 2006-02 which directed PRC regional offices to administer the oath, starting on Aug. 17, to those who passed the June 11 and 12 nursing licensure examinations whose integrity has been tarnished by reports of a leakage in the test questions.

The petitioners—the League of Concerned Nurses and the Binuklod na Samahan ng Mga Student Nurses—believe the PRC issued the memorandum to "defeat the rule of law and render moot and academic" their original petition seeking to stop the Aug. 22 oath-taking.

The first petiion also asked the court to strike down the Board of Nursing decision to merely recompute the grades to arrive at the passing score and order the BON to conduct a new examination for the parts of the exam tainted by leaks.

Last Friday, the CA granted a 60-day temporary restraining order to stop the Aug. 22 oath-taking, "to preserve the rights of the petitioners pending disposing of the subject petition and so as not to render any judgment hereon moot and academic."

By then, PRC Chair Leonor R. Rocero had issued the memorandum order directing all PRC regional directors to administer the oath to new nurses in their respective regions.

The memo was "obviously intended to slam the door on any judicial inquiry into the actions of the PRC," the petitioners said.

They therefore asked the court to "invalidate all oath-takings done under it to restore the status quo ante" (the state of affairs that existed previously).'

More than 2,000 examinees had already taken their oaths last Friday upon getting the go-signal from the PRC and before the CA could hand down its TRO. *With Vincent Cabreza and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Dante Ang heads leak probe body

BAGUIO CITY—THE CHAIR OF THE COMmission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) has informed local nursing school officials he has taken charge of an independent investigation into the test leakage they exposed during the licensure exams here in June.

Dr. Erlinda Palaganas, former governor for the Ilocos region of the Philippine Nurses Association, said CFO Chair Dante Ang met with PNA officials and members on Thursday to apprise them of Executive Order No. 550.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on July 31 signed EO 550 mandating the CFO to ensure that the country continued with its bid to have the United States' National Council Licensure Examinations (NCLEx) for nurses establish a center in the Philippines.

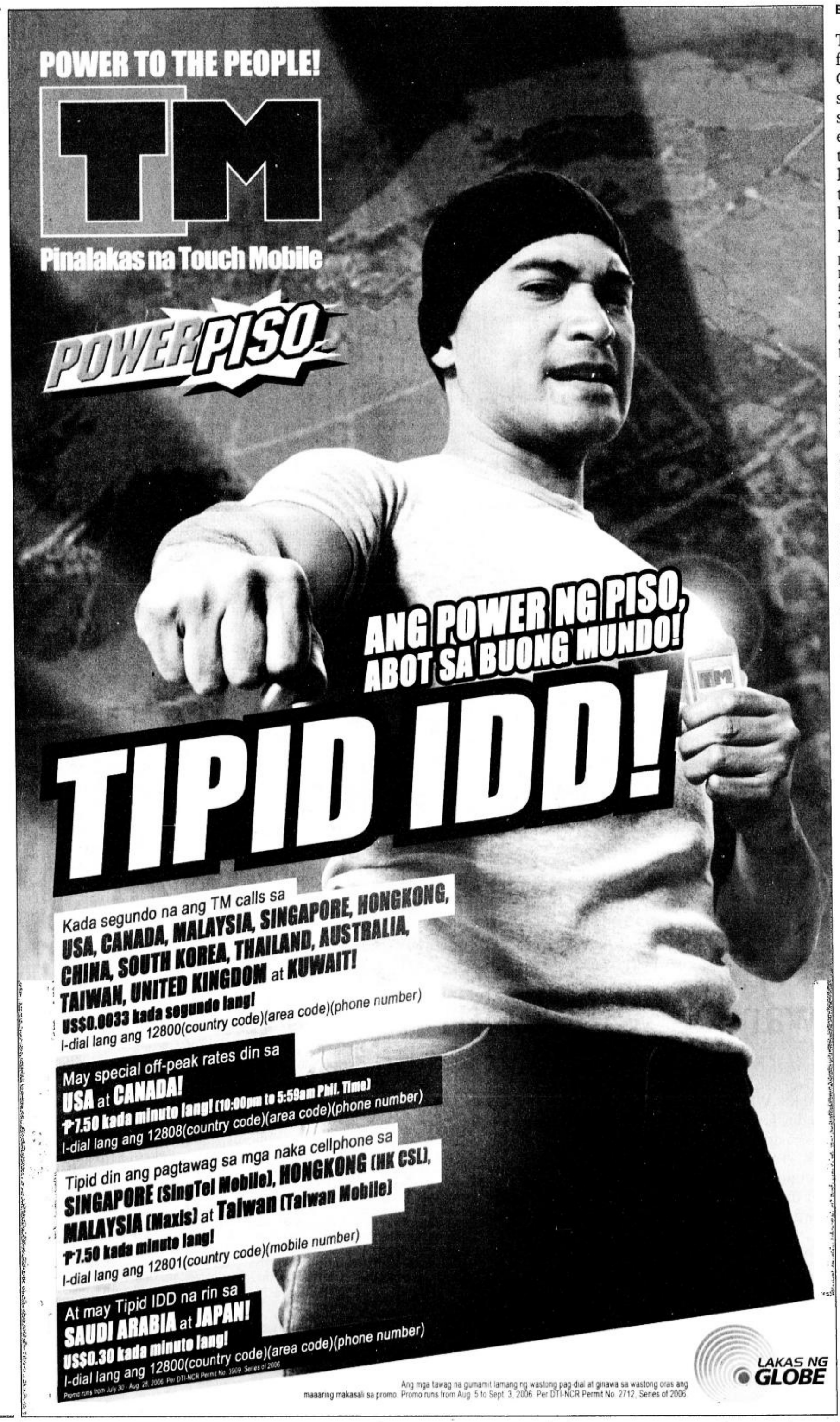
The NCLEx is an entry level prerequisite for Filipino nurses before they can practice in the US. Due to the absence of a test center in the Philippines, most Filipino nurses have to go to NCLEx centers in Hong Kong, Guam and South Korea.

The country's bid for an NCLEx center was the supposed reason PNA officials tried to stop the exam leakage from being exposed, according to Mary Grace Lacanaria, nursing school dean at St. Louis University.

Palaganas and other Baguio-based PNA members petitioned the President to intervene last week to resolve the crisis plaguing the nursing profession.

"If we cannot persuade the PRC [Professional Regulation Commission] to clean up [its ranks], we need to go higher up to a body that can countervail the PRC's tentativeness," she said in an e-mail to the INQUIRER.

"Ang will start exercising his power and authority granted by EO 550 to ensure the cleanup and secure the NCLEx establishment in the Philippines," Palaganas said. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



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Remembrances and the streets of Manila

Escolta has retained its name but not its unofficial title, 'Queen of the Streets'

By Luis R. Sioson
Contributor

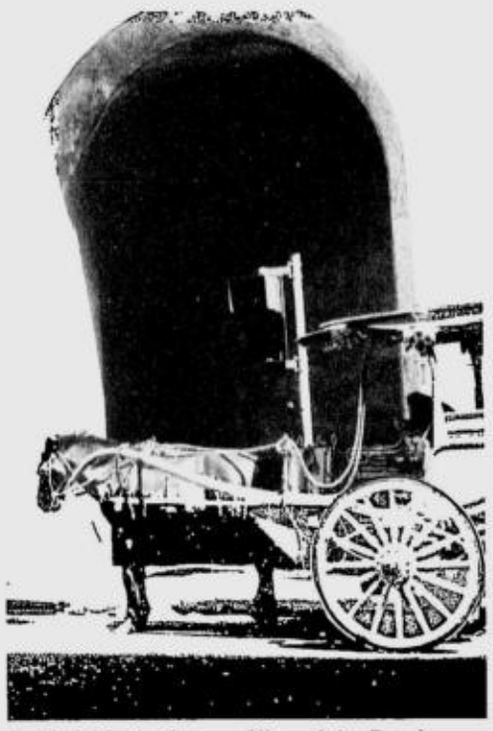
CERTAIN SECTIONS OF ERMITA, Sta. Cruz, Binondo and Quiapo are fascinating pieces in the city of Manila's mosaic. But the *plazas* seem to have shrunk because there are more people and motor vehicles.

The churches, on the other hand, remain durable and visible landmarks, spiritual sanctuaries for hundreds of pedestrians and visitors. People ply various trade on streets and sidewalks among old buildings and structures, testaments to time's quick passage.

The pace is slower in the Ermita of the Guerreros than in Sta. Cruz and Quiapo across the Pasig River to the north. There is more space in this district that still bears traces of its genteel past. Shady trees line some of its streets and a few old homes still exude the elegance of a bygone era.

On T. M. Kalaw Street, just off noisy (and polluted) Taft Avenue that intersects UN Avenue (formerly Isaac Peral), one can retreat to the quiet of the United Central Methodist Chapel hidden in the shadows of a large mall that replaced the old Harris Memorial Building.

The section, bounded on the south by Padre Faura Street, on the north by T. M. Kalaw (San Luis Street), on the east and west by Taft Avenue and Roxas Boulevard (Dewey Boulevard), respectively, is dominated by American Period buildings housing the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, University of the Philippines Manila and Philippine General Hospital.



A *CALESA*, the former King of the Road, waits for passengers in Binondo.

THIS once beautiful building on Bocobo Street in Ermita is being demolished to give way to a condominium. LUIS R. SIOSON/CONTRIBUTOR

The old Ateneo and its next-door neighbor, Assumption College on Adriatico Street (Dakota Street) and Pedro Gil (Herran), have been replaced by Robinson's tower and a sprawling mall.

At the corner of Padre Faura and J. Bocobo Street (Nebraska) is a cream-colored residence-turned-restaurant, its charming balcony and stairway remarkably well maintained.

Oldest 'real' bookstore

The nearby Marietta Building also on Bocobo, has been re-

REMEMBRANCES/ A18

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SC asked to reconsider ruling on Naia case

By Jocelyn R. Uy

PARAÑAQUE MAYOR FLORENCIO Bernabe Jr. has asked the Supreme Court to overturn its decision last month which struck down the city government's bid to collect P624.5 million in real property taxes from the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa).

In a motion for reconsideration filed last week before the high tribunal, Bernabe said that preventing a local government from collecting property tax from a government-controlled corporation within its jurisdiction was "antidevelopment and favoring regress."

Antilocal government

"I believe this decision would defeat the primary purpose of the Local Government Code which is to strengthen local government units and make them autonomous and self-reliant—the principal requirements in attaining national progress and development," the mayor added.

The SC decision had declared in its decision issued on July 20 that the buildings and property of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) terminals 1 and 2, as well as the Manila Domestic Airport, were owned by the government and therefore tax-exempt.

It also nullified the auction sale of the airport lands and buildings conducted by the Parañaque City government on Feb. 7, 2003.

"There is no point in national and local governments taxing each other unless a sound and compelling policy requires such transfer of public funds from one government pocket to another," the court had said.

Confusing

Bernabe, however, noted that the SC had validated the taxability of several government-controlled property such as the Mactan-Cebu International Airport (MCIA), National Power Corp., Batangas Power Corp., Lung Center of the Philippines, Government Service Insurance System, Philippine Ports Authority, Social Security System and Light Rail Transit Authority.

"But Cebu City collects realty taxes from MCIA while the Parañaque government cannot exercise its taxing powers over Miaa. Isn't sauce for the goose sauce for the gander, too?" the mayor said.

Remembrances and the streets of Manila

From page A17

placed by a condominium. Ulog was a popular jazz joint on the same street. F. Sionil Jose's Solidaridad Bookshop, probably the oldest "real" bookstore in the city, still sells books on P. Faura. Erehwon Bookshop, once the hangout of poets, English majors or anyone looking for hard-to-find books, was once a neighbor.

Za's Café and Hizon's Bakeshop at the corner of Arquiza and Bocobo streets still serve their famous *ensaimadas*, raisin bread and pricey coffee. The café has outlived the other coffee shops in the neighborhood—Taza de Oro, Country Bakeshop, Rolling Pin and United Supermarket's.

To the west of Padre Faura, corner Roxas Boulevard, one faces the unsettling vista of rundown buildings side by side with a modern glass, steel and concrete structure. On this corner once stood a beautiful mansion owned by a prominent family. It became a bank later.

Ermita Church stands guard over the now quiet tourist belt and a row of naughty bars. The park in front of it is no longer called Plaza Ferguson but Nuestra Señora de Guia.

On UN Avenue is the Philamlife building. Inaugurated in 1961, it has a well-maintained theater that was (and still is) a venue for memorable musical performances and stage plays. The glass-paneled cafeteria, with its adjacent chapel and indoor garden, drew thousands of faithful patrons for lunch and *merienda*.

Across the avenue is the Manila Pavilion (formerly Manila Hilton and then Holiday Inn). Still eye-catching is the tall white and green Don Alfonso Sycip Building, standing at the corner of UN Avenue and M.H. del Pilar.

Delightful sight

On a quiet narrow street called Alhambra that connects UN Avenue to T.M. Kalaw, is the old Diokno house, a striking two-story white building with a black iron-railed balcony overlooking the street. It is a delightful sight amid towering structures and a tangle of telephone and television cables.

The renovated Bayview Hotel, built in 1935, still stands at the corner of UN Avenue and Roxas Boulevard. Across is the Bel-Air Apartment building, designed and constructed in 1937 by National Artist Pablo Antonio.

Opposite are the former Elks Building and the fabled Army and Navy Club where members of the elite hosted parties or watched plays staged by members of the American community.

Beyond the stretch of graceful apartments and glamorous hotels beckons Manila Bay where people watch magnificent sunsets.

THE EL HOGAR Filipino building on Juan Luna Street near Jones Bridge.

THE OLD Natividad Building on Tomas Pinpin Street, Escolta.

Northward across Jones Bridge, are Plaza Moraga and Plaza Cervantes of Binondo. The conjoined squares that once comprised the city's throbbing center of commerce now lie desolate in the shadows of aging buildings.

The El Hogar Filipino, almost a century-old, stands forlorn on the seedy southern end of Juan Luna Street (Anloague Street, where Capitan Tiago's house in Jose Rizal's "Noli me Tangere," once stood). Standing beside it are the concrete remains of the old Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank on storied San Gabriel Street.

Farther north, intersecting Juan Luna, is Estraude Street where Rizal's house was located and where his mother supposedly waited and prayed while he was being escorted to his execution in Bagumbayan (Luneta).

El Hogar, standing by the banks of the Pasig River, still has a number of tenants. Its ground floor gets flooded when the smelly Pasig River—thick and brownish—swells when filled with wild water lilies. The dank odor of old buildings follows you as you gingerly step on improvised wooden planks to avoid the muddy water.

Nearby, the old Insular Life Building facing the Uy Chaco Building (constructed in 1914) in Plaza Cervantes looks dreary and worn, shorn of its emblem of a proud eagle perched on top of its small dome. The top floor used to house radio station dzRH that featured in its programs popular movie stars at the time like Rosa Rosal, Jaime de la Rosa, Pugo, Tugo and other entertainers.

Rizal slept in this hotel

On the same small block stood the First National City Bank of New York and the Bank of the Philippine Islands. Paredes (Rosario) Street still does some business. Plaza San Lorenzo Ruiz (Plaza Calderon de la Barca) in front of Binondo Church teems with pedestrians and motor vehicles. On this square once stood Hotel de Oriente, a "five-star hotel" that Rizal patronized.

Escolta has retained its name but not its unofficial title, "Queen of the Streets." The Crystal Arcade, Botica Boie, Heacock's, Alonzo, Estrella del Norte, Dencia's Pansit Malabon, Max's Fried Chicken, Henry's Donuts and other well-known establishments are gone. But Savory Restaurant is still around.

A dying Escolta

Escolta has been dying all these years though some businesses still remain. First-run movie theaters Capitol and Lyric are long gone. Nueva Street, where Andres Bonifacio once worked as a sales agent of Fressell y Cia, now carries the name E.T. Yuchengco.

David Street is now Burke Street while across the City College of Manila (formerly the Philippine National Bank head office) is Calvo Building. Soda Street, the Love Bus terminal before, is unrecognizable.

The Perez-Samanillo Building (now First United) and Regina Building still stand strong, proud sentinels at the entrance to Escolta from Sta. Cruz Church. The Samanillo Building, constructed in 1930, was designed by Andres Luna de San Pedro, son of painter-patriot Juan Luna.

Neglected and unnoticed by passersby is a historical marker honoring patriot-newspaperman Patricio Mariano on Banquero (Bangkero) Street, beside the Escolta Bridge, on the edge of a garbage-congested canal.

From the bridge to the left on Plaza Sta. Cruz, the historic Carriedo Fountain shoots out sprays of water that sparkle in the sun. The fountain stands between the Sta. Cruz Church and Monte de Piedad, the country's oldest savings bank where Manuel L. Quezon, Commonwealth President, once worked as a clerk. The short Bustos Street links the plaza to Avenida Rizal.

The strip between the drab dirty-white Capitan Pepe Building and the equally drab dirty-white Priscilla Building on the Avenida Rizal-Recto Avenue intersection, southward to Carriedo Street and Plaza Lacson (Plaza Goiti), was the most popular part of downtown where one could eat, shop and see first-run movies.

The popular cinemas—Ideal, Universal Theater (now Universal Park Mall), Luzon Theaters' Avenue and State, and Ever—are all gone. Some familiar landmarks like the Arguelles and Guison buildings remain, but the strip has been transformed into a pedestrian promenade with dusty alfresco cafés accented with balding worn-out topiaries.

Locksmiths on Ronquillo Street still practice their trade. Stores painted in loud Mediterranean colors of yellow, blue and red, and a barber shop crowd under the LRT Station on the Carriedo Plaza Lacson junction. This section has, quite accidentally, developed into a kind of open-air concert hall.

The crowds form a half circle to watch and listen to a blind duo of singer and guitarist, static distorting the sound of the music coming from an amplifier powered by a car battery. The blind musicians and their motley audience of commuters have carved out a space under the LRT tracks.

Distracting background

Further distorting the sound of music is a combination of the hard and heavy rhythmic roll of LRT cars, the ear-splitting sounds of videoke machines and the hoarse voices of ambulant peddlers.

On nearby Palanca Street (Echague), Henry Sy's old Shoemart (some say the first, the original SM) still does brisk business.

Plaza Lacson honors the colorful Manila Mayor Arsenio "Arsenic" Lacson. He stands tall on a pedestal across the old Roman Santos Building topped by a big clock and stone sculptures.

The popular Clover Theatre that brought the public Don Jose Zarah's Extravaganza and jazz pianist Ping Joaquin, has become the City College of Manila annex.

On the crowded streets leading to Quiapo Church and Plaza Miranda, Sta. Cruz and Quiapo meet, borderless and offering a mix of colors and scents of street food, fruit and flowers. The aromas of fishball, smoked fish, pineapple slices, flowers, burning candles, herbs, roasted castañas and other "*chichiria*" fill the air.

Platerias, barely visible on congested Carriedo Street, still offer hard-to-find "*piezas*" (music sheets).

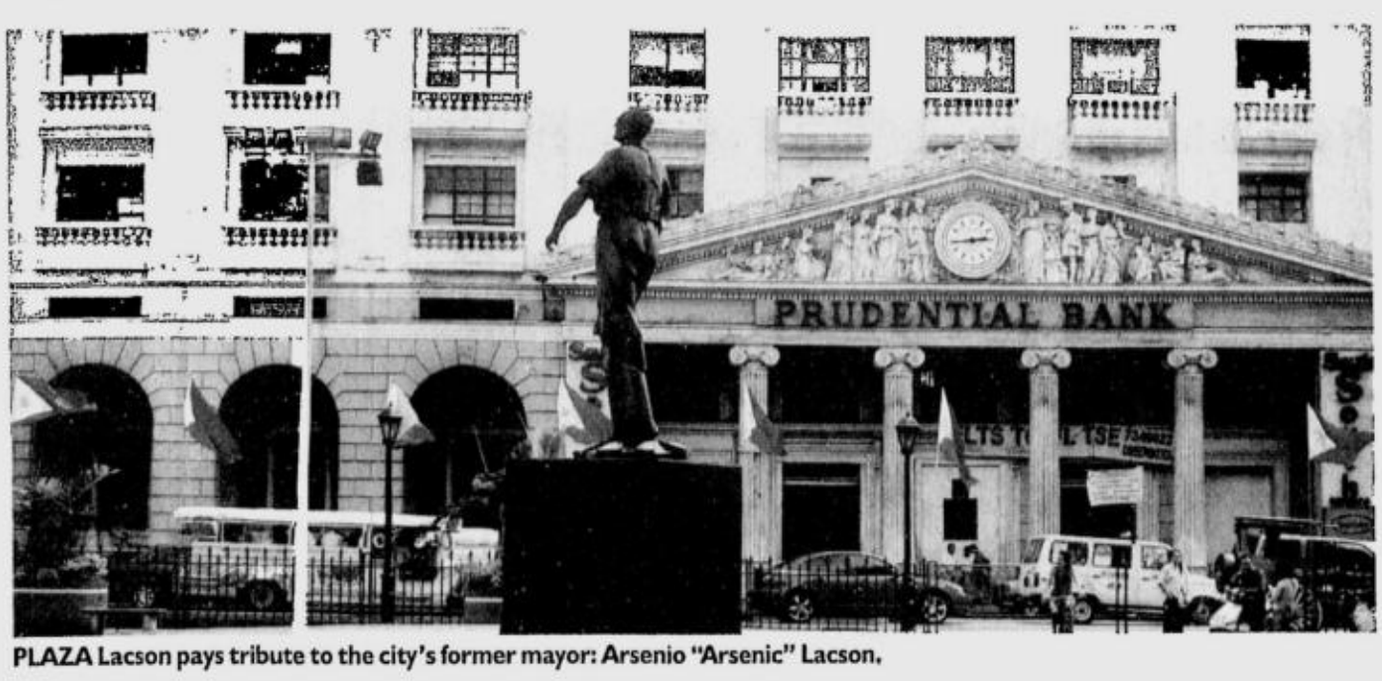
The stretch from Sta. Cruz Church to Quiapo Church is almost impassable, choked by crowds, stalls and merchandise of all kinds. On Plaza Miranda, balloon vendors, fortune tellers and novena sellers vie for the attention of church goers.

Take a trip to nostalgia and enjoy the walk and the remembrance of things past and present. It will be good for your soul and your sole.

(Luis R. Sioson, president of the Torres High School Class 1955 Foundation, has been writing articles about Tondo and other districts of Manila.)

A LOCKSMITH still plies his trade on Ronquillo Street in Sta. Cruz.

A BALLOON vendor in Quiapo



PLAZA Lacson pays tribute to the city's former mayor: Arsenio "Arsenic" Lacson.

A MARKER in honor of patriot-newspaper man Patricio Mariano on Banquero Street, beside the Escolta Bridge.

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

E-mail: pr_global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph

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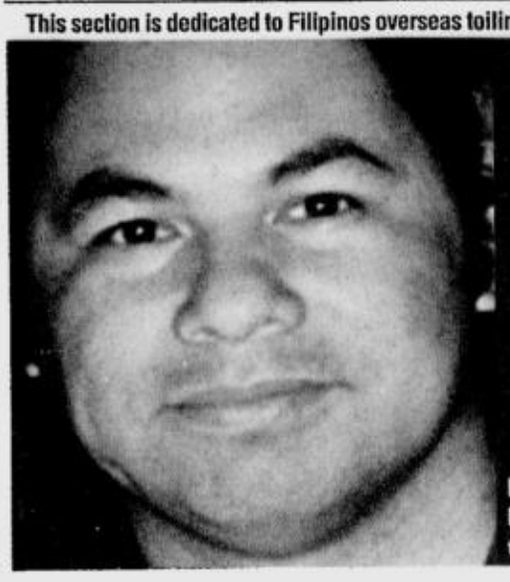
This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.



BELARDO: From Cavite to Melbourne.

Former Aquino-Galman prober, human rights lawyer in Australia

By Jose Geronimo
Contributor

THE GREEN LEAVES OF TALL sugarcanes in the fields of Santa Lucia, north of Capas, Tarlac, provided the only relief from the hot summer sun of that day in 1989.

The National Bureau of Investigation was at pains locating the graves of sisters Catherine and Ana Oliva.

In 1983, Ana saw her boyfriend with military men. His body was later found at the airport not far from another murder victim.

During breaks from digging, I listened with amusement to the stories of lawyer Placido "Dong" Belardo, then a young, idealistic, soft-spoken NBI agent. He said there was no conflict between his early dreams of becoming a man of the cloth and his being a man with a badge and a Glock 9 mm pistol.

Seventeen years later, my black decaf surrendered slowly to the chilly Melbourne weather as I found myself again all ears to my old friend and his adventures in the Land Down Under.

The barber's cut was gone, replaced by thick, long hair that grew past his shoulders, giving him the look of an aging, forgotten rock star. His pulsating Silangueño accent prompted me to remark, "You haven't changed at all!"

Shaking his head, he said Australians called him "Don," and explained with a chuckle why he dropped the last letter of his nickname. What followed was a tale of an eye-opening journey adorned with, to my surprise, poetry.

Belardo joined his wife and kids in Australia in 1991. He landed a job as an evening shift university security officer, allowjng him to pursue Australian legal studies during the day.

Struggle

The early years in Australia were a struggle. He remembered working on Christmas Day and admitted doing something which, on hindsight, was rather silly.

His three children spent Christ's birthday on board a security van as he patrolled the 40-hectare campus. Videos of "Annie" and "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" kept them amused in the arts faculty audiovisual room as he tried to babysit and work at the same time.

Trouble started when the eldest, a girl, disappeared to chase some wild rabbits while his son locked himself in the sleep deprivation laboratory of the psychology department.

But the call to public service remained strong. Right after admission to the Australian Bar, he worked in a nongovernment organization providing free legal services to multi-ethnic communities in the state of Victoria. Joining activist lawyers who championed minority and marginalized groups, he became the first Filipino to work full time as a human rights lawyer and advocate of people with disabilities in Australia.

He successfully represented hundreds of clients who were refused, or dismissed from, employment or excluded by educational institutions because of disabilities.

He said, "We have so much work to do. Many still demean persons with physical, intellectual or mental impairments and miss out on the valuable contribution they could make."

Reformist

Though Australia has good antidiscrimination legislation, he believes a lot more can be done. He wrote a number of law reform submissions, including allowing tax credits for business expense involving access for the disabled and lifting the disqualification of the blind and deaf from jury service.

He dreams that one day, Philippine attitude, infrastructure and jurisprudence would become as just and inclusive.

Juggling their time between careers and home chores, he and his wife Eleanor raised Patricia, Paulo and Pamela, now aged 19, 17 and 14, respectively, as true-blue Australian-Pinoys, far beyond a migrant's usual culture dosage from videoke and The Filipino Channel.

The family, which has roots in Cavite-Batangas, has remained down to earth Pinoys despite almost two decades of life abroad. The children attend weekend Philippine language and history classes. While truly of the hip-hop generation, they learned native dances like "*Subli*" and "*Pandango sa Ilaw*."

Last year, his daughter's "Cotillion de Rosas" culminated in a celebration of Filipino dances from the Tagalog's Tinikling to the Ifugao's fertility dance.

Dong's cars are easy to spot even from a distance because of their personalized plate numbers: "IROGKO" and "OGILIW." Once, he persuaded his wife to buy a house because it was located on Phillip Street that intersected with Pines Street.

Greg Norman village

Though living literally next to a Greg Norman-designed golf course and many of his friends were becoming addicted to 18-hole courses turning their wives into "golf widows," Belardo has not come close to swinging a club.

His two unusual hobbies reflect an undying love for his ethnicity. The Internet has become the outlet for his poetry (or "attempts," as he called them) that ranges from romantic to environmental and socio-political.

His "*Kampana ng Balangiga*" is not only a cry for the return of the bells but also a history lesson in rhyme.

"*Kalakal ng Patani*" chronicles the alarming kidney trade in the Philippines. "*Kumpisal*" is a satire on the Catholic Church's stance on homosexuality. "*Patuloy na Tumataas ang Lagnat*" speaks of intimacy after HIV infections. "*Kasalanan daw ni Eba*" condemns systemic chauvinism from a feminist's perspective.

A man's toys

His light essay, "Our Love affair with Corned Beef," is an endearing dig at the OFW's penchant for corned beef and wanton disregard for airlines' luggage limitations, concluding, "It's unFilipino to come home without a *pasalubong*."

This lawyer and his wife, a doctor who works as a nurse in Victoria, raise their three children as true-blue Pinoys; they all love characters and figures in Philippine movies and literature

This warrior also remains a child at heart. He has an extensive toy collection. Unable to find Pinoy action figures in Australian, he and his son converted their collection into Filipino figures and characters.

Though he did not support Fernando Poe Jr.'s presidential bid, his snookers room cabinet displays a 12-inch 1:6 scale doll of Da King with the un-mistakable sideburns, jacket over a white shirt and .45 Colt 1911 handgun, standing against a framed biopic of his childhood hero.

There is also a VCD of "Pitong Gatang" which, according to him, is the only movie where FPJ was beaten black and blue by the *contravida*.

Belardo's plastic Captain Juan Pajota wears a straw hat, complete with detailed guerrilla fighter accessories and 1,000-word backdrop describing his exploits during WWII, including the famous rescue of American prisoners of war in Cabanatuan.

General Macario Sakay, Gabriela Silang and Captain Cesar Basa are projects in progress requiring significant time and patience. He also has plans to work on Leonardo "Putik" Manecio and Gringo Honasan. "It's a heroes and villain kind of thing," he said with a loaded grin, "but I won't specify who is who."

'Bahay Kubo'

I guessed correctly. Dong sends his less fortunate nephews and nieces to school, helping them to find overseas jobs. He lamented, "It is sad, but every time I do a reality check, it is the only practical direction that appears viable." This Pinoy expatriate, who is romantic to the core, translates the typical OFW dilemma in the simple but carefully crafted lines of his "*Bahay Kubo sa Pangalawang Milenyo*":

Kubong naging bakal at bato
Kung si Ama ay wala sa disyerto
Sa pinanabikang oyayi ng Ina ko
Himbing ang anak ng kaniyang amo.
Mga halamang sari-sari
Di man diligan ay laging nakangiti
Ngunit sa bango ay tunay na salat
Walang paru-parong iibig nang tapat
Singkamas at talong
Sa hapag-kainan ay nagtatanong
Bakit daw labis ang mga silya?
Sinong sasaway sa bunsong lumalaking pilya?
Sa paligid-ligid ay walang linga
Bagkus ay bundok ang iniulam na de lata.
Magara man ang damit, cell phone at sapatos
Pagluha ng anak, tila ba ulilang lubos.

Covering the APO Hiking Society's concerts in Australia, I had only a few hours to catch up with a character like Belardo but it was amazing to hear "brown-colored stories" from a migrant.

He spoke kindly of the APO, describing them as a national treasure. "APO produced a variety of the best love songs, as well as classic hits with a conscience. 'American Junk' was a refreshing and brave material from a popular and mainstream musical group."

He asked if I remembered the trio's Sunday show, "Eto na Po Sila." Naturally I did. His second query perplexed me. "So what is the show's connection to the diggings that we did at the sugarcane plantations in Tarlac?" Sensing it was not a trick question, I begged for the answer.

He said, "*Pare*, long before Dan Brown invented the Da Vinci Code, the APO was already into hidden messages. With our colonial past, the Visayans borrowed the Spanish verb 'fusilar' that means to shoot. So when Ninoy Aquino's Avsecom escort was heard saying '*Diri na, dito na, pusila, pusila*' (something that sounded like the Tagalog 'Here they come'), the last words that Ninoy heard before the fatal shots were similar to those Rizal heard: '*Preparen!, Apunten! Fuego!*'

"So, the APO's program title declared cryptically that [Rolando] Galman was our very own [Lee Harvey] Oswald."

I said to myself, I was in the company of a bona fide Global Pinoy!

AT THEIR new house in Victoria in 2005, Belardo with wife Eyen and children, from left, Pam, Patricia and Paulo.

Put your money in a small farm

By Francisco J. Colayco
Contributor

MANY OVERSEAS FILIPINO workers want to be able to retire and live off the earnings of a small farm in their province. They say that they want to be able to eventually plant some crop or raise some animals and earn passive income from the sale of those crops and animals. They want to know if it is advisable to invest in a small farm. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to give general advice on whether they should invest in a small farm or not as there are too many factors to consider such as: Location, type of crop/animal, manpower costs, investment required, etc.

Each OFW would have a completely different case. Perhaps, I can help by at least guiding them through the thinking process.

Before even considering the option of buying a property for a farm, I think they should ask themselves the following:

- Are they really interested and knowledgeable in small scale farming? Many OFWs have gotten used to living in the cities and particularly in bigger cities abroad. We hear so many stories of OFWs who end up entrusting the farm they bought to a relative or friend instead of operating it themselves.
- Will they actually get involved in setting up and running the farm themselves? Many start their farms by having their relative or friend buy the property for them without actually seeing the property. They also allow a relative or friend to start operations on the farm. This is taking too much risk. It is best to postpone this kind of decision until and unless they have actually visited the property and found it to be suitable for their purpose.
- There are so many options available in farming that makes it mandatory to seek an expert's technical advice. From this technical advice, they can estimate how much they need initially to invest, and how much more they will need to provide as working capital in order to sustain operations. They will also be advised on the specific technical risks they will be encountering in the specific location they intent to farm. They should go to a specific agency that specializes in the technical advice for the type of farm they want. Check out http://www.da.gov.ph/. This website gives very good advice as a start.
- Do they understand the economic aspects of the crops they intend to produce? They should understand the market forces related to the product they want to produce and who will buy their product. They should fully evaluate the barrio/area where they intend to do their farming. Is there something they can produce that could be immediately sold within the barrio itself? This would reduce the need and the cost to bring the product anywhere else.
- Does the proposed location have already access to the buyers of their produce? They should have a thorough understanding as to how their product can reach the market. They can have the best product but if there are no roads and/or distribution systems, they will not be able to sell.

When they know the answers to the foregoing, they can then prepare their simple financial study. Again, financial studies will be very different for each OFW as already explained earlier.

There are some items that they must pay more attention to when they make their financial study:

- Cash flows are most important. They should know how much money they have to invest initially and how much they must add every month to maintain the farm until the crops or animals are ready to be sold for cash. Note that selling on "utang" is not considered cash.
- Include the costs of purchasing the property.

a. I cannot over-emphasize the need to investigate with the Registrar of Deeds that the Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) is clean and that it really corresponds to the property that was shown to them.

b. Understand the cost of maintaining the property itself and not only think of growing the crops/animals. There are real estate taxes, municipal taxes etc.

c. If there is need to borrow just to buy the property, this must be considered and included in the cost of the property.

d. If they want to consider what they will receive if they are able to sell the property, they must remember that they have to pay for the transfer of the TCT (about 2% of selling price) and capital gains tax of 6%.

- If they already own the property but there is need to borrow for the operations of the farm, they must be very careful that they are not over-extending themselves. Usually, the property will be mortgaged to acquire the loan. There are so many sad experiences of properties being foreclosed because of inability to pay amortization.
- Compute the returns on their investment. There are exercises to learn to do this in the Pera Palaguin Workbook. I can only advice that the returns on their investment should, at the very least, be higher than the average inflation rate per annum, which is 7-8% over a long-term period. This is only to make sure that their money does not deteriorate over time.

While owning their own small farm is a beautiful dream, they have to be realistic. For those who are still working abroad and have little control over the operations of their farm, my advice is to focus first on growing their savings until such time as they are ready to invest and manage their farming dream. If they still intend to work overseas for another two to three years, they should consider investing their savings in high-return pooled investment funds that can easily be redeemed or sold. Over the last three years, the top-managed equity mutual funds gave an average annual returns of over 25%. Balanced mutual funds gave annual yields of over 16%. Long-distance management of a farm land is too much of a high risk until or less the management, technical and financial aspects are specifically addressed and resolved.

OUT OF LEBANON

This chef is cooking up something new

By Miko L. Morelos

NATIVIDAD displays his T-shirt marked with an antiwar slogan upon his arrival at the Manila international airport on July 30. At right, the cook shows off his food at Le Sushi Bar in Beirut before the war.

HE HASN'T ADJUSTED TO LIVING in the Philippines since he came back from Lebanon.

For one, John Paul Natividad who lived and worked in Lebanon for eight years is still unaccustomed with the weather here.

"The climate in Lebanon is very different from here. Despite the heat of the sun there, the air is still cool," he said. "Here, the sudden change of the weather could make you sick."

It's back to square one for Natividad, one of about 5,600 overseas Filipino workers who evacuated from Lebanon when the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah began last month. This Pangasinense truly finds it hard to adjust with the weather and the idle time he has.

"I've just been here for two weeks yet I find it tough to adjust because I'm still not used to being idle," he said.

"It's tough to lose a job, especially a decent paying one," he said. "Like other OFWs would say, life here in the country is very expensive; the money one saves easily gets depleted because of the high prices."

Natividad, 33, had been working as a sushi chef in Lebanon for eight years before the fighting in Lebanon erupted. On Sundays, he serves for Fr. Agustin Advincula, C.M. as his sacristan. He arrived in the country on July 29 on board a flight chartered by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

"At first, I really wanted to stay there," he said. "But Father Gestie told me that if I was sure that I have a job to go to when I go here, I should leave Lebanon."

Traumatized

Natividad recalled that the restaurant, called Le Sushi Bar, was preparing for tourists before the conflict started. At that time, the Lebanese summer had just began, paving the way for local and foreign tourists to the country. However, the fighting took off on July 15, driving tourists away, and leaving workers either jobless or traumatized.

"When the fighting escalated, the owner of the restaurant where I was working suddenly left," he said. "We did not know what to do. My companions and I, together with the other Filipino waitresses decided to leave the restaurant and evacuate to the country."

When the owner, a Lebanese-French, disappeared, he left the restaurant's crew penniless as he did not give his crew's salary for the month. The owner even brought their Philippine passports with him, Natividad said.

"Traveling out of Beirut, we only had a travel document (issued by the Philippine Embassy) as a proof of our identity," he said. "When I arrived here, I was able to bring only $50."

The incident has left a deep mark on Natividad.

"As much as possible, I would not like working for an Arab employer again," he said. "I know it's wrong to generalize but I feel that if I go back there, my employer would get back at me because I left."

Despite his bad experience in Lebanon, Natividad still plans on working overseas.

"If I work here, I wouldn't earn like what I used to get in Lebanon," he said. "*Mahirap tanggapin yung bayad kasi maliit lang ang sweldo, sa ibang bansa, malaki.*"

But other Filipino workers don't have the same fate. In fact, some of the domestic helpers who evacuated the strife-torn country recalled that some employers didn't give them the salary stipulated in the contract.

"It's true. Some domestic helpers sign a $200 contract here only to get paid $150 when they start working in Lebanon," he said. "It has been a recurring problem and the embassy there couldn't find a solution to that problem."

A job in waiting

Natividad said his sister promised to get him a job as a chef in one of the company's luxury liners. He lives with his sister, who works for a shipping company, in Cavite for the time being.

"My sister called me up around June, offering a job as chef for their company's luxury ship," he said. "She asked me if I could go home by that time for an interview. I told her that it's impossible for my employer to allow me to go home again because I just had my vacation in March."

When the fighting started, Natividad decided to accept her sister's offer. He left Lebanon thinking that he would easily get a new job.

"I constantly bug my sister, asking her when she could get me in," he said. "But she said the application takes a little time [to get processed]."

His sister even offered him a job at a cargo ship for the same company as a chef. He declined the offer.

"It's lonely in a cargo ship unlike if you work in a restaurant or a cruise ship," he said. "Besides if the cargo ship crew doesn't like the taste of the food I prepare for them, they might throw me off the ship."

Natividad's family has been supportive of him when they learned about the war. His other siblings, who are based in the US, lent him money for the processing of his papers and other expenses.

Aside from leaving his work in Lebanon, Natividad had to leave his wife, Merlita, behind. She works as a domestic helper who doubles as a caregiver for her aged Lebanese-Canadian employer. Her contract expires in July 2007, he said.

"I told her that she should stay there until I get a job," he said. "Besides, her employers promised to take her to Paris with them when they evacuate."

Now that a ceasefire is in place, Merlita's employers decided to stay in Lebanon.

His wife couldn't send money to him because banks there were closed. He told his wife that she should keep the money because things there were unstable.

"I told her that I'll manage to survive here," he said. "I just have to make the most out of the money I lend from my siblings."

Where's gov't help?

Natividad lamented the fact that the government help wasn't enough for the OFW evacuees. Aside from the repatriation, the government promised to help OFWs get back at their feet.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion had said the evacuees would be entitled to livelihood and entrepreneurial assistance, skills training and job search for local and overseas work, among other things, upon registration with DOLE officials.

"The government had promised livelihood programs for the evacuees. But every time I go to their office and follow up on the assistance, they would tell us that it is not yet available," he said.

Despite his misgivings against the government, Natividad is still grateful for their help.

"Well, I'm home safe and thanks for the free ride," he said. "If it weren't for them (the government), I would not be here."

In search for a new job

Natividad is still busy looking for a job overseas. Unfortunately, his cell phone got snatched last week, losing his contacts to possible employers.

"I met a domestic helper who lives in Capiz that has a brother who works as a captain in a luxury ship," he said. "I gave her my number because she said she'll try to get me a job."

Love, yen, and tears in the land of cherry blossoms

By Jeric G. Contreras
Contributor

MARILETH Martin (right) and Kimiharu Iida in Ibaraki-Ken in Japan, February 2005. They maintain a long-distance relationship. Marileth stays in the Philippines, while Iida is in Japan working for the family he left in the Philippines.

JAPAN, LAND OF THE RISING sun, is one of the favorite destinations of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), especially Filipino women.

Aside from rich cultural heritage, the country's economic stability draws Filipinos. Fairly or unfairly, Filipino women who work in Japan are called "Japayukis."

Many modern-day Pinays who go to Japan usually work as waitresses, domestic helpers, factory workers, nurses, and singers, dancers or band members.

Some of these Filipino women end up marrying Japanese.

The INQUIRER interviewed OFWs from different parts of the country to find out why they chose to go to Japan.

This is what we found out:

Easy money

"Money is so easy to earn in Japan, especially when you're hardworking. This could be the reason why Filipino women, who usually didn't finish schooling, dream of working there," said Anna Grace Dayao, 21, a dancer in Heartbeat Club, Shizuoka City, Japan.

"When I worked there last year, I easily earned enough money (for) my siblings."

She added that the Japanese "loved to be entertained (since) their lives revolved around work, *omese* (club), and family."

Asked if she would prefer to marry a *Hapon*, she said, "I still want to marry a Pinoy. I cannot imagine myself marrying a *Hapon*."

At present, Dayao is preparing to leave again for Japan. Her contract expires every one and a half years.

The INQUIRER also discovered interesting stories from OFWs about *Hapon* husbands.

"I know, deep in my heart, that I love my Japanese husband and I can feel that he loves me, too," says Marileth Martin, 32, who worked in 2000 as an entertainer in Nagoya, Japan.

She is married to Kimiharu Iida, 38, a club manager in Ibaraki-Ken, and they have an 8-month-old daughter. At present, Martin has a long-distance relationship with Iida.

"I am confident he will not leave us. He promised he would support our daughter. But (when) he's gone, or when he (stops supporting) us, I will be ready. Nothing is permanent in this world," she says.

Jefferson Soleta, 17, talks fondly of his Japanese stepfather, Daniel Kusu. Soleta says it was painful, even dreadful, when his mother Ruby, 36, remarried. He found it hard to adjust at first. For him, his father, who died of a stroke in 1992, would forever remain his dad.

"It was really difficult at first when my mother went to Japan in 2000 to work there. I never thought she would remarry and to a *Hapon* ... I cried hard. I really loved my father. But when I got to know my mom's Japanese husband, I learned to accept him as my second dad," he says.

Kusu and his mother were married in March in Barasoain Church in Malolos, Bulacan. His stepfather comes to the Philippines every three months.

"He is a good provider; he's like a real father to me. He takes care of my mother and brother. He sends us money, gives us all the material things we want, and spends special occasions with us. I hope he will not change," Soleta says.

Sad stories

But not all stories have fairy tale endings. Love Gonzales, 34, worked in Akita, Japan for only two months in 1995. Her wish to secure a good life by marrying a Japanese was a miserable experience.

She says she was initially excited about her relationship with Masao Saito. He gave her expensive jewelry and signature clothes. "He was so kind and generous when he was introduced to me by my colleagues who were also entertainers in Japan. He treated me like a real princess. That's why I was attracted to him and decided to marry him. He even accepted and adopted my daughter, I really felt he loved me. But I was wrong."

The relationship lasted for only two months. "His attitude changed. He made me sweep the floor of his house in front of his friends. He would suddenly get angry and shout at me ... I left Japan with a wounded heart."

Her heartbreaking experience made her realize that one should not fall for a stranger. She adds, "Pinays must be very careful in choosing a partner, especially when he is a foreigner."

Practical reasons

Michael Tan, a columnist of the INQUIRER, believes Japayukis marry Japanese for very practical reasons.

"I haven't come across any formal studies, but I would think this (marriage) is done for practical reasons. Japayukis have a taste for the good life. They know the only way they can stay in Japan is to marry a citizen. It's almost impossible for a non-Japanese to become a citizen except through marriage," he says.

Asked if Pinays find Japanese more attractive and special, Tan thinks there is no special attraction involved. "No doubt, some Filipino women will marry for love, aside from practical reasons. But it's not because of any special appeal."

Japanese men, he says, sometimes find it difficult to marry a countrywoman because their women are now rebelling against the traditional feudal patriarchal attitudes.

Hierarchy of needs

"So Japanese men look to Filipino and Thai women, hoping to get a wife who is more subservient. But they often realize that a Pinay isn't exactly the demure, timid type, so some marriages end in divorce. But, by then, the Pinay would have gotten a citizenship and could stay in Japan."

Tan says Japanese men are better providers than Filipinos, not only in terms of financial capability but also in terms of conscientiousness.

"It's part of the patriarchal system: A man will slave away for his family, even die from overwork (*karoshi*) if necessary. I'm afraid I can't say the same thing about Filipino men ... I've seen women actually supporting their husbands," he says.

Dr. Maxwell L. Felicilda, dean of the Graduate School of Philosophy in San Beda College, says Pinays who marry Japanese can be better understood by looking at Abraham Maslow's "Hierarchy of Needs."

"Maslow categorizes these needs into five. The first one, and the most powerful, is the physiological or biological needs. This is the need for survival or self-preservation. This is very clearly seen among animals where various ways of preserving one's life can easily be seen in terms of various defense mechanisms. In the case of the Filipina, the predator, poverty, is a challenge to survival. While it is true a number of Filipinas are employed in various industries, majority of them are employed as entertainers.

Marriage of convenience

"Perhaps my opinion (is restricted) to those in the sex trade.

I think there are at least two major considerations in the heightening of the biological need. First, we seem to recognize (features of) animal behaviors such as territoriality. A change of environment (from Philippines to Japan) increases fear among them. The greater the fear, the greater is the display of ingenuity with regards to the 'preservation' of her life.

"The Filipina neither knows the place nor the language. Knowledge of the language is (an important factor in) survival. (Without knowledge of language or place), the most vital form of survival is to depend on 'somebody' embedded in the culture, in the place and in the language—the Japanese. Using one's instinctive charm, luring a Japanese to her lair is definitely NOT a sign of insatiable sexual desires. It is just a form of self-defense.

"Marrying a Japanese is a marriage of convenience, and the Japanese knows this pretty well. In these marriages, symbiotic relation is not yet properly nurtured so beating a Filipino wife is very common. Their (women's) job makes them very vulnerable to violence. Japanese from every walk of life congregate in a very crowded place and it seems that what brings them together is the Filipina singing and dancing on the stage.

Ruled by men

"Secondly, very related to the notion of territoriality, is the culture. While there is a very clear manifestation of chauvinism among Filipinos, there is nothing that compares to the Japanese culture. Japan was, and still is, ruled by men. The ancient Shogun culture or the monarchic rule of an emperor provides a special place for men whose basic duty is to protect the community from enemies. A Filipina, exposed to the intricacies of the Japanese culture, is now prone to seek refuge under a dominant male."

Felicilda believes Filipinas do not like the Japanese. For him, the issue is not about liking or loving. "Loving or liking is possible only within a normal condition, or perhaps among two equal partners. It thrives when there is freedom to do what each one wants to do."

He doubts that the Japanese treat the Filipina as an equal partner. "If there is genuine love, this is an exception rather than the rule. Perhaps there are various reasons (for the relationship) and love, I suppose, is not one of them. In Maslow's hierarchy of needs, love belongs to the third level. This level is possible only when the physiological and the need for safety are addressed."

Pinoy still tops

Neyla Ventura, 22, a *promdi* footlong hotdog and fishball vendor, says one way to rise from poverty is by marrying a Japanese. But she still finds satisfaction and happiness with her *kababayan* in her beloved country. "*Kung bibigyan [ako] ng pagkakataon na makapuntang* Japan, OK *lang*. Game *ako*! Sexy *naman ako at kikita pa ako ng maraming lapad at baka yumaman na ako eh 'di masaya ang buhay ko. Pero, ayoko pa ding umalis sa 'Pinas. Masaya naman dito, mahirap lang talagang mabuhay. Mas masarap pa ring mag-asawa ng Pinoy.*" ***With reports from Federico C. Castro Jr. and Eduard Joseph Q. Sapno***

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Israel commando raid shakes ceasefire

BAALBEK, LEBANON—THE FRAGILE CEASEFIRE in Lebanon was dealt a blow Saturday when Israeli commandos clashed with Hezbollah fighters after raiding a village, as French troops were set to arrive by sea to reinforce UN peacekeepers.

A Lebanese military official said that Israeli helicopters, under the cover of mock raids by warplanes, landed two Hummer vehicles in the moutainous region of Afqa, about 30 km east of Baalbek, a Hezbollah stronghold.

Commandos then drove eastward to the nearby village of Buday where they clashed with Hezbollah guerrillas, he said.

The incident marks the first major clash between the two sides since the ceasefire took effect on Monday.

There were exchanges of fire earlier this week that left at least four Hezbollah fighters dead.

UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which governs the ceasefire, called for a "full cessation of hostilities based upon, in particular, the immediate cessation by Hezbollah of all attacks and the immediate cessation by Israel of all offensive operations." It also called for Israeli troops to withdraw from south Lebanon in tandem with deployment of Lebanese troops and a beefed-up UN peacekeeping force in the area.

The United Nations was urging European countries Friday to provide troops to the peacekeeping force, as the Beirut government moved ahead with its deployment, begun a day earlier.

"It's very important that Europe now steps forward," Deputy UN Secretary General Mark Malloch Brown said Friday. "The next few days are going to be very challenging to make sure that we meet this commitment to 3,500 troops, or 7,000 boots on the ground in 10 days from now." He said that while Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Nepal had all offered troops as part of the expanded UN force to help shore up the tenuous ceasefire, there was a need to deploy a balanced European-Muslim force that would be acceptable to both Lebanon and Israel.

"We said before that a European-Muslim force (would be preferable) because of both groups' interest in this situation ... They bring when you combine them a legitimacy that satisfies both sides to this conflict," Malloch Brown said Israel has made clear it would not accept countries with which it has no diplomatic relations—such as Muslim-majority Malaysia and Indonesia.

The scope of the force and its rules of engagement were believed to be the major stumbling blocks for European nations, but Malloch Brown said countries now had full details and should be ready to decide on a role.

"Today they're getting the full rules of engagement and CONOPS (the concept of operations)," he said, adding: "Now the ball is in their court." France has agreed to contribute an extra 200 troops, far short of the major commanding role that many had foreseen for the former colonial power in Lebanon.

An advance unit of an engineering batallion was due to arrive by sea at Naqoura, near the Israeli border, on Saturday morning, a French military officer told AFP.

US President George W. Bush said he hoped France would reconsider its decision and dispatch more troops, noting that "there have been different signals coming out of France." A British newspaper accused France of failing to honor an unspoken deal to provide some 3,500 soldiers for south Lebanon to form the backbone of the UN force and encourage others to contribute.

The Independent wrote in an editorial that "France seems to have lost its nerve" by being willing to contribute only 200 troops.

In Rome, the cabinet gave its approval in principle to the deployment of Italian troops, but Prime Minister Romano Prodi declined to give any firm commitment on numbers saying the matter had "not yet been examined." Besides Italy, several countries, including Indonesia, Malaysia and Turkey have expressed willingness to contribute troops. Pakistan and Bulgaria have pledged to consider the matter, while Germany ruled out sending ground forces.

The 28-year-old UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the extra troops will be charged with policing the fledgling ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel until the full 15,000 peacekeepers stipulated by the Security Council resolution can be found and deployed.

UNIFIL is seeking to add 3,500 troops to its existing 2,000-strong contingent within 10 days as Israel pulls back from areas it occupied in its devastating month-long offensive.

In southern Lebanon, government troops took up positions Friday in the heavily bombed border town of Khiam, located just seven km from the Israeli border.

The town had been a stronghold of the Shiite militant group Hezbollah since Israel last pulled out in 2000 after a 22-year occupation. *AFP*

LEBANESE women who lost their relatives during air strikes from the conflict between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah, mourn during a funeral ceremony in the city of Qana, near Tyre, south of Beirut, Aug. 18. REUTERS

Suspect obsessed with JonBenet, email shows

BOULDER, COLO.—A SERIES OF leaked e-mail exchanges between a University of Colorado professor and John M. Karr, the latest suspect in the 1996 killing of 6-year-old JonBenet Ramsey, were spread on the public record Friday, portraying Karr as obsessed with the youngster and raising local tempers over the handling of the long-flawed investigation into her death.

Perplexing statements by Karr, who is in custody in Thailand, continued to raise doubts about his part in the case, which has once again thrust this college town into the center of a media whirlwind.

Michael Tracey, the University of Colorado journalism professor who conducted a four-year e-mail correspondence with someone who used a pseudonym—and who Tracey said the authorities had identified as Karr—went into seclusion Friday after The Rocky Mountain News published a sample of the e-mail messages that Tracey said had been crucial to the arrest.

KARR in a 1983 high school yearbook. RUETERS

In one of the published messages, which university officials confirmed were those received by Tracey, the man identified as Karr asked the professor to go to the Boulder house where JonBenet was found dead on Dec. 26, 1996, and read an excerpt aloud.

"JonBenet, my love, my life. I love you and shall forever love you," the message read in part.

"If there is to be a life for me after this one," the writer said, "I pray that it will be with you—together forever with you and other little girls who are gone now from my life forever. This would be my Heaven."

The Internet also played a role in another twist to the JonBenet case this week as computer buffs discovered an extensive trail of a man who gave his name as John Karr and personal information that fits the John Karr in custody. This man used Web newsgroups intensively in 1996 evidently in an effort to communicate with children, sometimes about sex. That February, for example, 10 months before JonBenet was discovered strangled in the basement of her home, the user asked, "Is sex among people under 10 a rarity or common place?"

Karr, 41, a teacher with a record of pornography charges, remained in Bangkok on Friday after his arrest Thursday by immigration officials. There was no official word on when he was to be flown here, and no information emerged over what prompted Boulder prosecutors to act now. The Boulder County district attorney's office would not confirm if any physical evidence connected Karr to the basement of the Ramsey home or whether he was even in Boulder at the time. *New York Times*

Woman's stand heightens immigration debate in US

CHICAGO—IN A STOREFRONT church in a Puerto Rican neighborhood on the city's West Side, Elvira Arellano, a fugitive from the government, waits with her 7-year-old son and prays.

Arellano, 31, an illegal immigrant from Mexico, defied an order to report to the Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday to be deported and is instead seeking sanctuary in her church.

Arellano is hoping Congress will act on a private relief bill that would allow her and her son, Saul, a US citizen who has attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, to stay in the country, where she says he can get better medical treatment.

"I'm not a terrorist," said Arellano, who came to the United States illegally nine years ago and is facing her second deportation. "I'm only a single mother with a son who's an American citizen."

Arellano, president of an advocacy group called La Familia Latina Unida, said she hopes her action helps to bring about legislation to protect families that could be torn apart by deportation.

Immigrants' rights groups and critics of illegal immigration are closely watching her case. Some supporters have likened her to Rosa Parks, while detractors say she broke the law and should face the consequences.

Critics say illegal immigrants have children with the hope that they will be allowed to stay in the United States. "She had an anchor baby, that's what she did," said Mike McGarry, acting director of the Colorado Alliance for Immigration Reform. "If she was so concerned about her child, she'd take him with her."

Emma Lozano, director of Centro Sin Fronteras, an advocacy group in Chicago, sees it differently. "She became for all of us a symbol of resistance to the unjust, broken laws of this country," Lozano said. "This cross that she bears for all the undocumented is because she's been chosen." *New York Times*

Report: Airline plot brains is Zawahiri kin

ISLAMABAD—A SON-IN-LAW OF AL-QAIDA deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri was the mastermind of a plot to blow up transatlantic airliners unearthed in Britain this month, a Pakistani newspaper said on Saturday.

British police said on Aug. 10 they had foiled a major plot to carry out suicide bombings on aircraft bound for the United States and are questioning 23 suspects.

Pakistan said last week it had arrested seven people, including two British Muslims of Pakistani descent, in connection with the plot.

One of the arrested Britons was identified as Rashid Rauf and Pakistan said he was an al-Qaida operative with links in Afghanistan and was central to the plot.

Pakistan's Dawn newspaper, citing what it described as credible sources, said a son-in-law of the fugitive Zawahiri was the mastermind and was being hunted.

The newspaper did not identify the suspected mastermind but said Zawahiri, Osama bin Laden's deputy, was known to have several sons-in-law.

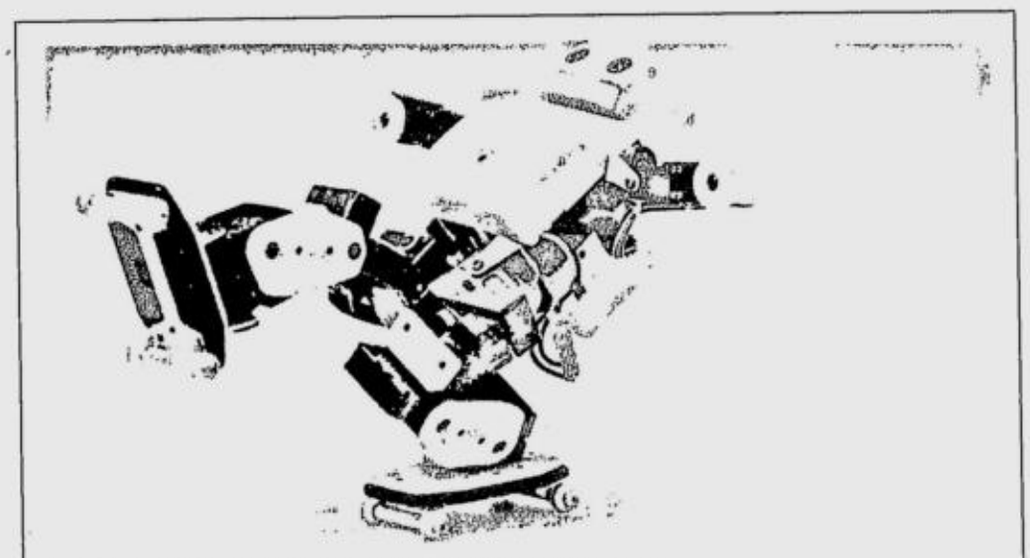
Senior Pakistani security officials were not immediately available for comment.

Zawahiri is believed to be hiding out along the Afghan-Pakistani border, in the area of the eastern Afghan province of Kunar and the Bajaur region in Pakistan.

A missile from a CIA drone aircraft hit a meeting of al-Qaida leaders in Bajaur in January. US intelligence officials believed Zawahiri might have been attending the gathering.

The airliner bomb mastermind was believed to have met one or more of the plotters in Bajaur or across the border in Kunar, Dawn said. It did not say when the meeting was believed to have taken place.

The mastermind had made some initial payments to the plotters, Dawn said, citing its unidentified sources. *Reuters*



CONTROLLED BY CELL PHONE BLUETOOTH
Humanoid robot "PLEN" of Japan's metalworking company Systec Akazawa keeps its balance as it skates at the Robot Expo in Tokyo, Aug. 19. People can control the 228-mm-tall robot by bluetooth radio attached to mobile phones. AFP

Special US spy for Cuba, Venezuela

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States has named a special "manager" for its intelligence operations against Cuba and Venezuela, in effect putting the two Latin American nations on a par with "axis of evil" states confronted on multiple levels by the administration of President George W. Bush.

North Korea and Iran are the only other countries that have been assigned so-called "mission managers," who supervise intelligence operations against them on what the office of national intelligence director called "a strategic level." In a statement, the office of National Intelligence Director John Negroponte said the manager would be responsible "for integrating collection and analysis on Cuba and Venezuela across the intelligence community" and "ensuring the implementation of strategies" that have not been identified.

"Such efforts are critical today, as policymakers have increasingly focused on the challenges that Cuba and Venezuela pose to American foreign policy," the statement said.

The director's office said the manager would also be asked to ensure "that policymakers have a full range of timely and accurate intelligence on which to base their decisions." The document did not say what kind of decisions US officials could be making with regard to either of the targeted countries.

For the moment, the task of handling the Havana-Caracas axis fell to 32-year Central Intelligence Agency veteran J. Patrick Maher, whose previous job was deputy director of the CIA's Office of Policy Support.

His biographical sketch supplied in the announcement indicates he was one of the architects of the CIA's current counterterrorism strategy in violence-torn Colombia and managed the agency's operations in the Caribbean basin.

It was not immediately clear whether he was directly involved in planning the 1983 US invasion of Grenada in response of a feared Cuban-backed leftist takeover of the island nation.

The statement made it clear, however, that Maher would be only an "acting" manager while search for a permanent candidate for the job was under way. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Rebel sea base destroyed, says Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA—Sri Lankan air force planes destroyed a strategic Tamil Tiger sea base in the north in overnight strikes, killing a number of insurgents, the military said Saturday. Military spokesperson Maj. Upali Rajapakse said separatist Tamil Tigers have been using the base to launch attacks on government positions in Jaffna Peninsula, which the Tigers claim as the cultural homeland of the country's 3.2 million ethnic Tamils. About 800 rebels and security forces have been killed in fighting in Jaffna since Aug. 11, when rebels made a major push to retake the government-held but Tamil-majority peninsula. *AP*

Castro improving, brother says

HAVANA—Fidel Castro is getting better and Cuba has bolstered its defenses since his operation, the strongman's brother Raul said in comments published Thursday, his first since becoming acting president. He said Cuba stepped up security in the face of what he called "interventionist" US policies, but insisted the communist government remained open to possible dialogue with Washington. He also said Fidel Castro, 80, was undergoing a "satisfactory and gradual recovery" thanks to "his exceptional physical and mental nature." The bearded leader who ruled Cuba for almost 48 years, announced in a statement on July 31 that he had undergone intestinal surgery and provisionally ceded power to Raul, his constitutionally designated successor and the Caribbean nation's defense chief. *AFP*

China touts AIDS vaccine success

BEIJING—China Saturday said initial test results of its first AIDS vaccine showed it could protect people against the HIV virus. None of the participants in the clinical trial's first phase showed severe adverse reactions after 180 days and some showed immunity to the HIV-1 virus 15 days after receiving the vaccine, the State Food and Drug Administration said. "Initially, this indicates the vaccine is effective in stimulating the body's immunity," the administration said in a statement on its website. Researchers were still analyzing the outcome of the initial trial before deciding whether further tests would be carried out, it said. *AFP*

Ford announces more cutbacks

DEARBORN, MICH.—The Ford Motor Co., which is struggling to keep its grip on second place in the American car market, said Friday that it would cut by one-fifth the number of vehicles it plans to build in the final three months of the year. The slowdown represented the deepest production cuts since the industry's crisis of the 1980s. It also underscored the difficulty that Detroit, whose business relies on sales of sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks, is having as gas prices remain at $3 a gallon. Detroit's market share has dropped to its lowest level in history, while Asian brands, known for their fuel efficiency, are setting sales records. *NYT*

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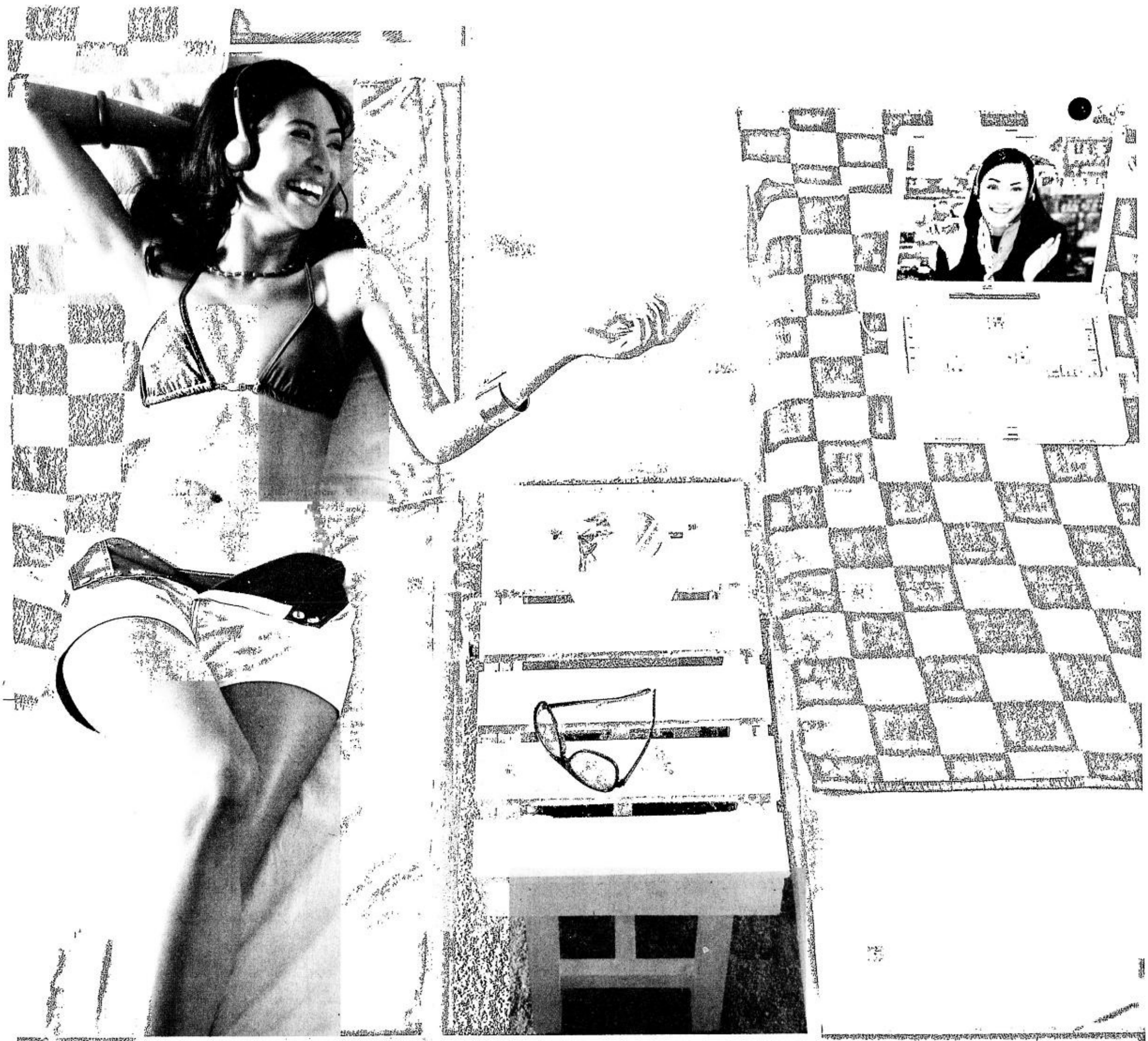

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Sunday SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres** **E-mail:** pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

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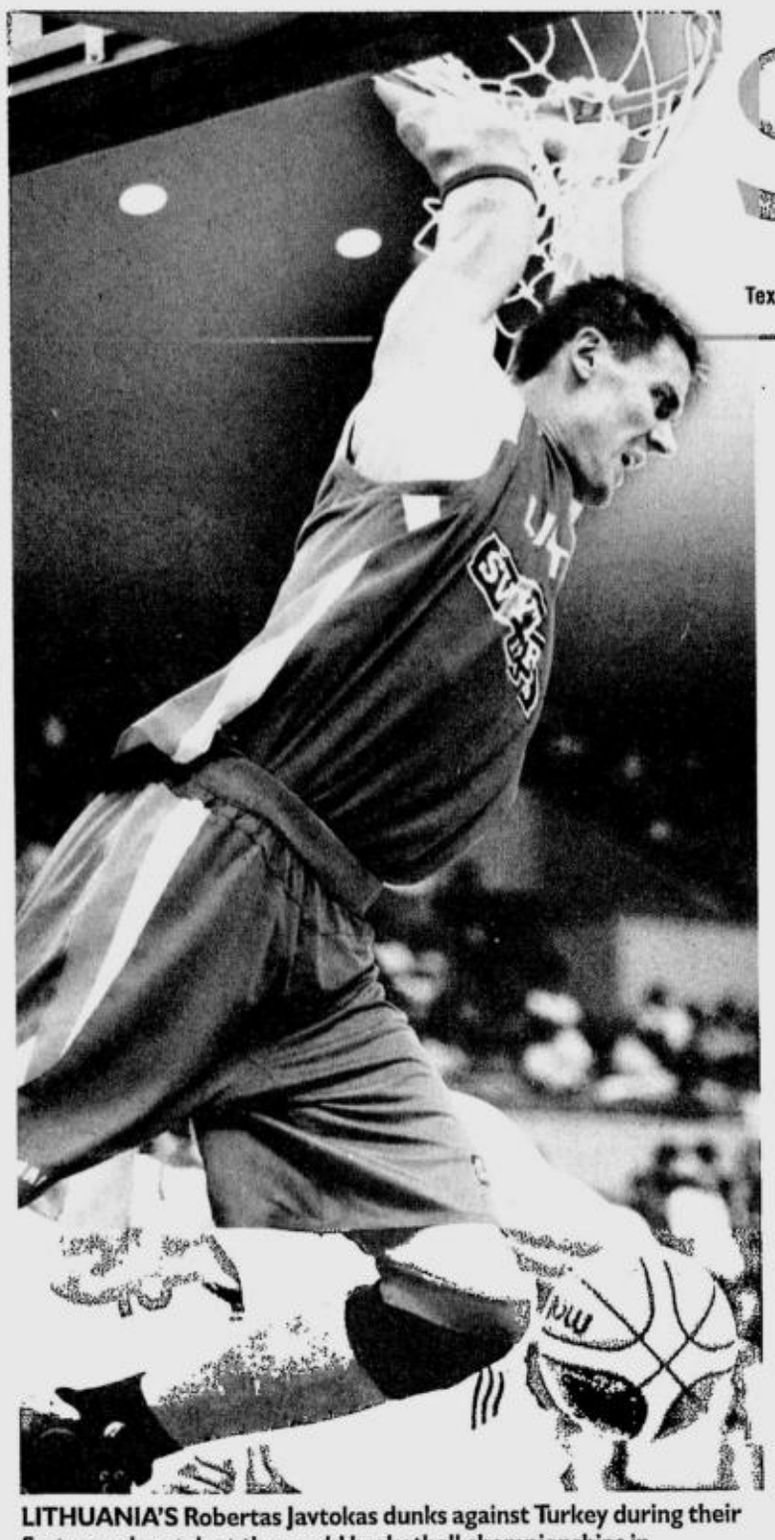


LITHUANIA'S Robertas Javtokas dunks against Turkey during their first round match at the world basketball championships in Hamamatsu, central Japan. *Story on A28* REUTERS

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Woods lurks behind** strange mix at top /A27

■ **Realtors torn between** Fil-Am, Santos /A26

■ **Tigers revive bid;** Eagles seek No. 8 /A24

Bacolod rips US-East, gains World tilt finals

KIRKLAND, WASHINGTON — TOUGHENED by back-to-back semifinal setbacks the last two years, the Philippines' Education Training Center School of Bacolod City finally got over the hump yesterday with an inspiring 6-0 win over US-East bet Westpoint to reach the Junior League Softball (13-14) World Series finals in Kirkland, Washington.

Pitcher Veronica Belleza, a member of the ETCS squad that bowed out in the semis of the past two Little League (11-12) World Series, struck out seven batters in a no-relief seven-inning job, while Nerissa Benjamin came through with four RBIs, two each in the third and fifth frames, to power the Bacoleñas to the finals in their very first try in the Junior League category.

With the triumph, ETCS — the only non-American team in the final four — moved on the brink of duplicating Paglaum Village National High School's 2003 victory in same Junior League division that stands as the country's first and only World Series title.

But the odds are stacked against the Asia-Pacific champions when they meet reigning titlist US-South for the title at 4 a.m. Saturday (4 a.m. in Manila).

The Filipinas already lost to the US-South squad, represented by clouters from Naples, Florida, in their first meeting in Pool B earlier, 2-0. US-South stayed unbeaten in five games, forging the championship duel with the Filipinos by shutting out Needville, Texas of US-Southwest, 4-0.

Dina Barlita, who coaches the ETCS squad with Vilda Benjamin and Lagrimas Ciokon, said the Filipina softbelles played on a different level against US-East, which came into yesterday's game with an immaculate 4-0 record that included a victory against powerhouse US-Southwest.

"They really turned their games a notch higher that they surprised even the coaching staff," Barlita told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Barlita said they were also overwhelmed by the support of the Filipino community in Kirkland. "The girls' morale are very high. We feel like we're the home team here," she added.

But Barlita said they are not taking any chances against US-South. "They (US-South) have the size advantage but the girls learned a lot of lessons in their previous loss," she said. *Cedelf P. Tupas, Inquirer Visayas*

Team Manila lands 5th in Kalamazoo Big League

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN — TEAM Manila of the Philippines and Asia Pacific swept its last two games Friday (Saturday in Manila) to give the country its third International Trophy in the Big League Softball (16-18) World Series here.

The Filipinas subdued Halletsville of Texas, 4-2, behind the combined four-hit effort by lefty Felixwinda Custodio and Elsa Delagente and then came back late in the afternoon to blank Windsor of Ontario, Canada, 4-0, to settle for fifth place overall.

Returning Chat Lorevie Ditchon pitched a one-hit four-inning start and Custodio worked on a no-hit, no-run three-inning relief as the girls of head coach Filomeno "Boy" Codinera Jr. ended up with an even 4-4 card in the eight-team field.

Meanwhile, US East Zone champion Connecticut took the measure of host state Michigan, 1-0, to prevent an all-Michigan finale.

Connecticut, Michigan and host city Kalamazoo actually wound up in a tie for first after the one round elimination at 7-2. Connecticut and Kalamazoo, however, came up with the better quotient in the tiebreak to forge their championship duel.

Michigan State wound up third.

Team Manila's fifth place finish was two notches lower than the third place finishes of the RP teams of 2001 and 2005.

"Well, luck was not with us at the start of the tournament," said Codinera. "We could have been in the finals had we not lost at least three games that ended up close. A fifth place finish is nothing to be ashamed of. Remember all the nine teams here represent the best in their continents and regions."

Against Canada, Manila keyed off its attack with three hits in the bottom of the first, including a single by Delagente that drove in lead-off batter Dorie Mae Cabuguason, who had earlier walked.

Against Texas, the Filipinas came up with a three-hit, two-run salvo in the first inning starring first base girl Alexandra Zuluaga, Jessel Taladtad, Delagente and shortstop Wenchie Bacarisas.

Zuluaga, one of two players on loan from ILLAM (International Little League Association of Manila), singled in first base girl Jessel Taladtad to break the ice for the Filipinas, while Bacarisas guided Delagente home with another base hit.

Tagaytay, Surigao Sur, Manila rout chess foes

KUALA LUMPUR—TAGAYTAY CITY blanked Kelab Kilat, 4-0, yesterday to open its title-retention bid in the Merdeka Chess Team Championship on a high note even as other Philippine teams also posted smashing victories here.

Surigao del Sur and Manila also shut out their opponents while Filway Marketing and Cantilan City posted 3.5-0.5 victories to complete the bright day for Filipino chessers.

Grandmasters Joey Antonio and Nelson Mariano II started the onslaught of Tagaytay of Mayor Bambol Tolentino by trouncing Reza Eruan Mokhtar and Sansubari Ghe Mud, respectively. National Master Ronald Llavanes and Truman Hernaez completed the romp by downing their rivals in boards 3 and 4.

Surigao del Sur, being backed by Rep. Prospero "Butch Pichay, also the National Chess Federation of the Philippines president, routed Malaysia's MTBE on victories by International Masters Oliver Dimakiling and Yves Ranola, David Elorta and Butch Villavieja.

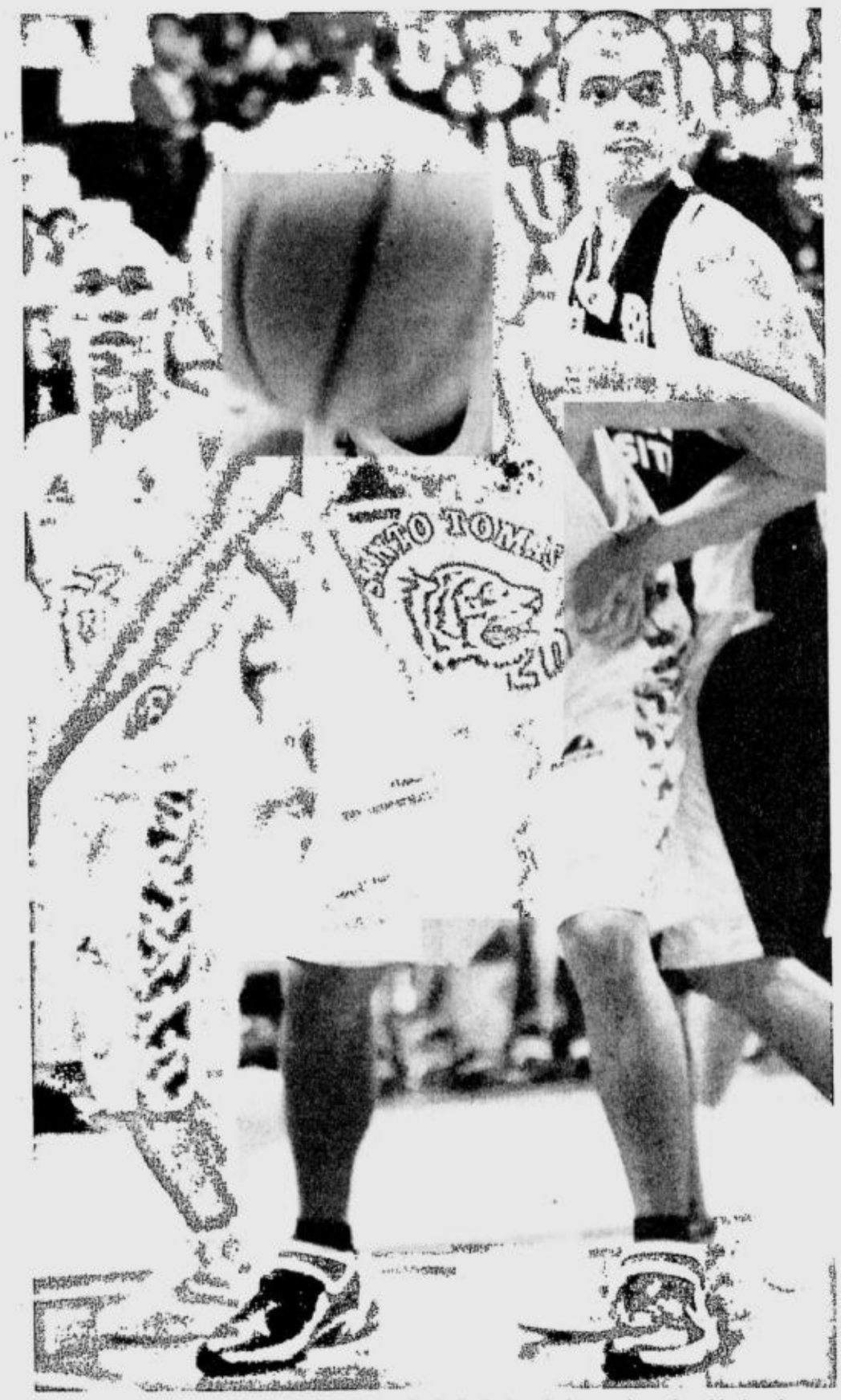
Manila, sent here by Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza drew wins from Dr. Jenny Mayor, Anthony Makinano, Efren Bagamasbad and Jun Rojano to dump Astro B of Singapore.

Grandmaster Mark Paragua's Filway Marketing settled for a 3.5-0.5 victory over Myanmar (Burma) and so did Cantilan of two-time national champion Darwin Laylo, who was held to a draw by Ismail Ahmad of Selangor's Senior Team.

Tagaytay, under team captain Willie Abalos, is slated to face Puteri PCCM, also with 4 points) in round 2.

The Philippine delegation, sent here by the NCFP, is being led by NCFP vice president lawyer Romeo Seratubias.

JOEY ANTONIO


JERVY Cruz of UST gets his face framed by the ball, during their match against National University yesterday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Tigers revive bid; Eagles seek No. 8

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS TIGERS REVIVED THEIR SPUTTERing campaign in the UAAP men's basketball tournament with a vengeful 75-67 win over the National Bulldogs at the Philsports Arena.

Drawing a much-needed lift from their bench, the Tigers rediscovered their attacking flair in the second half with Chester Taylor pouring in six of his 10 points in the last five minutes to lift the Tigers to a 71-65 advantage from a 58-58 standoff.

"It's a good thing he stepped up after eight games," said UST coach Pido Jarencio of the lanky 6-foot-5 Taylor. "I told him that he just can't be promising on paper."

All told, the Tigers' reserves outscored the Bulldogs' bench, 41-10.

Also back in his element, rookie standout Jervy Cruz finished with 18 points and 13 rebounds.

After ending their four-game tumble, the Tigers joined the Adamson Falcons and the Bulldogs in a three-way deadlock for fourth place at 3-5.

"What we're praying for right now is for everyone to stay healthy," added Jarencio, who have been missing the services of several key players in recent games due to various illnesses.

The Tigers turned things around after the break. From a 32-42 deficit, the Tigers shot nine unanswered points to close in at 41-42.

Back-to-back baskets by Cruz gave the Tigers their first lead since the first period, 45-44, with 4:57 minutes left in the third quarter.

Ateneo Eagles

Meanwhile, the Ateneo Eagles will try to clinch the first Final Four berth against the sinking University of the Philippines Maroons at 2 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Led by JC Intal, the undefeated Eagles will try to match the eight-game winning streak the 2002 team set during its championship run.

But the Eagles have to do without 2005 Rookie of the Year Jai Reyes, who will be sidelined for several weeks due to dengue.

Coach Norman Black admits that the Eagles, who just came off another 66-65 escape over the Adamson Falcons, are bent on keeping the top spot.

"In the beginning, we wanted to finish in the top two, but we reviewed our goals a bit after a good start," said Black. "We want to finish number one. That's the goal right now, not really to think about what streak we're on. We can feel FEU coming up. A look into the future, we don't want to be stuck with them or UE in a match up in the Final Four."

Semifinal format

In the semifinal format, the top-ranked team will face the fourth seed enjoying a twice-to-beat advantage.

The University of the East Warriors and the Far Eastern U Tamaraws, the two teams Black pegged as likely threats, will collide at 4 p.m.

Occupying the second spot at 5-2, the Warriors will try to halt the four-game rampage of the defending champion Tamaraws.

UE coach Dindo Pumaren said his wards have settled back into their system.

"When our players competed in a shooting contest in the first round, we had discussions that for the last two years, it's always our defense that keyed our wins," noted Pumaren. ."

Mentor Bert Flores said the Tamaraws have already learned from their early 0-4 slump, which included a 92-84 overtime loss to the Warriors in the first round.

In junior action, the unbeaten Ateneo Eaglets and the second-running FEU Baby Tamaraws secured semifinal spots after repulsing their respective foes.

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs UP (Srs)
4 p.m.—UE vs FEU (Srs)

The Eaglets cruised to their ninth straight win with a lopsided 109-55 triumph over the winless National U Bullpups, while the Baby Tamaraws thwarted the UE Pages, 80-71, for an 8-1 card

Earlier, the UST Tiger Cubs nipped the Adamson Falcons with a 66-65 decision for their fourth win in 10 games.

The scores:

First Game (Jrs)

UST 66—Laconico 23, Reyes 14, Buendia 10, Sarsonas 6, Banquicio 6, Ledesma 3, Francisco 2, Manuel 2, Aquino 0, Cunanan 0, Perez 0.

ADAMSON 65—Acibar 25, Olalia 11, Valerio 9, Vitug 7, Borja 5, Albay 4, Nudo 2, Godito 2, Tadeo 0, Santos 0, Alrero 0.

Quarters: 18-19, 39-26, 55-46, 66-65

Second Game (Jrs)

FEU 80—Rivera 21, Banal 11, Argamino 9, Lopez 9, Rosales 7, Pagula 7, Knuttel 6, Gadia 4, Paulino 2, Edding 2,Rocha 2, Dela Peña 0, Paulino 0.

UE 71—Duran 33, Santos 11, Runez 10, Crisostomo 5, Nicolas 4, Del Rosario 4, Amanon 2, Borgonia 2, Monce 0, Caparas 0.

Quarters: 28-16, 47-31, 63-47, 80-71

Third Game (Jrs)

ATENEO 109—Gamboa 18, Rivera 15, Tiongson 11, Gonzaga 10, Dumrique 10, Katipunan 8, Golla 7, Austria 7, Gamboa 6, Aportadera 6, Enriquez 4, Esquievel 3, Valera 2, Balmaceda 2.

NU 55—Berry 17, Batac 12, Terso 10, Batac 7, P. Guzman 7, Jimenez 2, C. Guzman 0, Magat 0.

Quarters: 27-12, 55-26, 81-36, 109-55

Fourth Game (Srs)

UST 75—Cruz 18, Evangelista 12, Abaou 11, Taylor 10, Espiritu 7, Cortez 7, Duncil 5, Cuan 4, Giles 1, Canlas 0.

NU 67—Lingao-Lingao 15, Fernandez 15, Asoro 14, Malcontento 10, Flor 8, Catamora 3, Dela Cruz 2, Garcia 0, Salvado 0, Malagueño 0.

Quarters: 15-21, 32-40, 51-53, 75-67

Viray, Bauzon shine to keep their teams afloat in NCAA

THEIR EXPLOITS MAY WELL BE TOO LATE, but San Sebastian's Jim Viray and Perpetual's Fritz Bauzon are doing their best to keep their respective teams afloat so far.

With their schools dangling dangerously off the Final Four fringes, Viray and Bauzon displayed never-say-die spirit in leading the embattled squads to fresh victories last week.

For the feats, they garnered the nod of the media to become the joint Players of the Week of the NCAA men's basketball.

Viray's claim to the plum was his 12-point performance that enabled San Sebastian to hurdle tough-fighting St. Benilde (68-63). The spike-haired swingman also added eight rebounds to his stats as the Stags registered their fourth win in 12 games.

"We can always count on Jim at crunch time," said SSC rookie coach Raymond Valenzona. "His energy in the court almost always rubs off to his teammates, and he's setting a good example being one of the veterans of the team.

On the other hand, flashy guard Bauzon was instrumental in Perpetual's 67-66 triumph over Jose Rizal also last Friday.

"Bauzon really gave his best in that game against JRU. He made several big shots, and although he missed two crucial free throws, we can't deny his determination to win," said Perpetual Help coach Bai Cristobal.

Bauzon hit 19 points in that game and grabbed seven rebounds. But his biggest contribution proved to be that big swipe off the hands of JRU rookie John Wilson with 11 seconds remaining.

The tale of two heroism, however, could last only until Mapua gets into action against on Wednesday. The Cardinals can end all complication by winning just one of the three remaining games and completing the Final Four cast with early qualifiers San Beda, Letran and Philippine Christian. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

WINNER: Brent Hayden of Canada celebrates after winning the men's 100m freestyle final during the Pan Pacific 2006 swimming championships in Victoria, British Columbia, Friday. REUTERS

GM Torre leads Cordillera bets

THE 2006 CORDILLERA OPEN CHESS CHAMpionships gets underway today at the Baguio Golf and Country Club in Baguio City.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre and international master Jayson Gonzales will lead crack players who will showcase their talent in the National Chess Federation of the Philippines-sanctioned event.

Hosted by former Benguet Gov. and NCFP director Raul "Rocky" Molintas in cooperation with NCFP chair Quezon City representative Matias "Mat" Defensor and NCFP executive director lawyer Sammy Estimo, the nine-round Swiss system tournament offers a total pot of P110,000 to the winners.

The champion receives P40,000 and the second, third, fourth and fifth placers pocket P20,000, P13,000, P10,000 and P7,000, respectively.

Category prizes will also be awarded to the top kiddy, top junior, top senior, top lady and top local players. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

STRONGEST FILIPINA: Lily Picante (right) is congratulated by Allan Tanchiong of Sports Nutrition International (SNI) Whey Protein for setting a world record in the 2006 Asian Masters Power-lifting competition held recently in Taebaek, South Korea. Carrying the national colors and representing the SNI Whey Protein-Zest Gym team, Picante squatted 442 lbs in the 90 kg class. Picante also holds the Philippine power-lifting records in bench-press (264 lbs) and dead-lift (474 lbs).

Imported Stakes 5th leg today at SLLP

By Musong R. Castillo

CARMONA, CAVITE—AN IMPRESSIVE CAST of versatile runners led by Slatkis and Luxardo see action today in the fifth leg of the 2006 Imported Stakes Series at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

California Lady, a hard-finishing bay mare owned by the traditionally formidable C&H Enterprises stables, is also fancied in the 1,750-meter race like coupled entries Suppressed and Hear Me.

Jeffryl Zarate handles Slatkis, a vaunted stayer, while Patty Dilema partners Luxardo, a four-year-old bay mare who finished a close second to Tres Juene last week at the Santa Ana.

At stake is a total of P600,000 and slots to the championship race where winners of the first four legs—Golden Link, Bellin Bellin, Ever Mine Now and La Tienne—and their runners-up await.

Suppressed, out of the dominant Hermie Esguerra stables, won a leg last year and has already qualified for the grand race. And the five-year-old will undoubtedly use this race to prime up for the big one under Louie D. Balboa.

Three-year-old gray filly Hear Me, the second Esguerra entry, will have

Ronald Baldonido as a skipper, while Iron Heart (RG Fernandez) and Don't Tell Ella (CV Garganta) round out the seven-horse field.

The 5:25 p.m. starting time will be strictly followed. It was a directive of the sponsoring Philippine Racing Commission that started earlier in the week which has resulted in a mild increase in sales.

Luxardo and Slatkis finished a close 2-3 to La Tienne in the fourth leg close to one month ago and Luxardo will be coming off a string of impressive non-winning performances.

Though the distance today suits the hard-finishing Slatkis more, Luxardo's 1-minute and 34.4 seconds over 1,500 meters in being nipped by a nose by Tres Juene seems solid enough for this race.

RACING 7/25
BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Quick Pick (1), Habagat (5), Vinta's Pride (3)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Friendly Fire (2) Euphoria (5), Dexie Dash (6), Scud Missile (7)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Fudioka (4), Ruah (3), Pride And Joy (5), Nice Legs (6)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Iron Tower (8), Bachelor Of Arts (7), Noble Scholar (2), EJ Forever (4), Cool N'Sazzy (9)
Race 5—(Tri)—Striking Thunder (3), Bold Water (2), Nureyev Heiress (5)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Graceful Conqueror (10), Red Phoenix (2), Onceupontime (6), Yankee CLipper (8), Guided Missile (4)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Slatkis (3), Hear Me/Suppressed (6), Luxardo (4), California Lady (5)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Head Turner (9), Road Runner (3), Expiditer (1), Aljhun (2), Tool Pusher (5)
Race 9—(Qrt/Tri)—Good Landing (4), Native Land (6), Marque (3), Fast Reason (2)
Race 10—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Somos O No Somos (10), Alltaptap (11), Chabacana (9), Sweet felicity (2), Sakura Ijhay (4), Bigtime Bonjing (6)
Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Refreshing (6), Lucky Punch (2), Sweet Alyssa (3), Virgin Island (7)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Ikaw Lamang (6), Ocean Dignity (7), Spoiler (9), Naman Naman (5), JJ's Friend (4),
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Macho Man (7), Erica's Talent (3), Manhattan (2), Kay Akino (5), Tower Of Strength (10), Manila magic (6)

Manalo tows Sambajon in New York tilt

FILIPINOS MARLON MANALO AND SANTOS Sambajon trounced their respective opponents to remain in the winner's brackets of the $25,000 Turning Stone Classic VII yesterday at the Turning Stone Casino in Verona, New York.

After blanking Nathan Gates, 9-0, in the opening round, Manalo took the scalp of Japanese-American Mike Yamauchi, 9-1.

The 30-year-old Mandaluyong ace Manalo, playing under the auspices of RP billiards patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat and BSCP president Ernesto "Ernie" Fajardo, will face Shawn Putnam in the next round. Putnam beat Steve Murphy, 9-3, and Paul Dryden, 9-4, respectively.

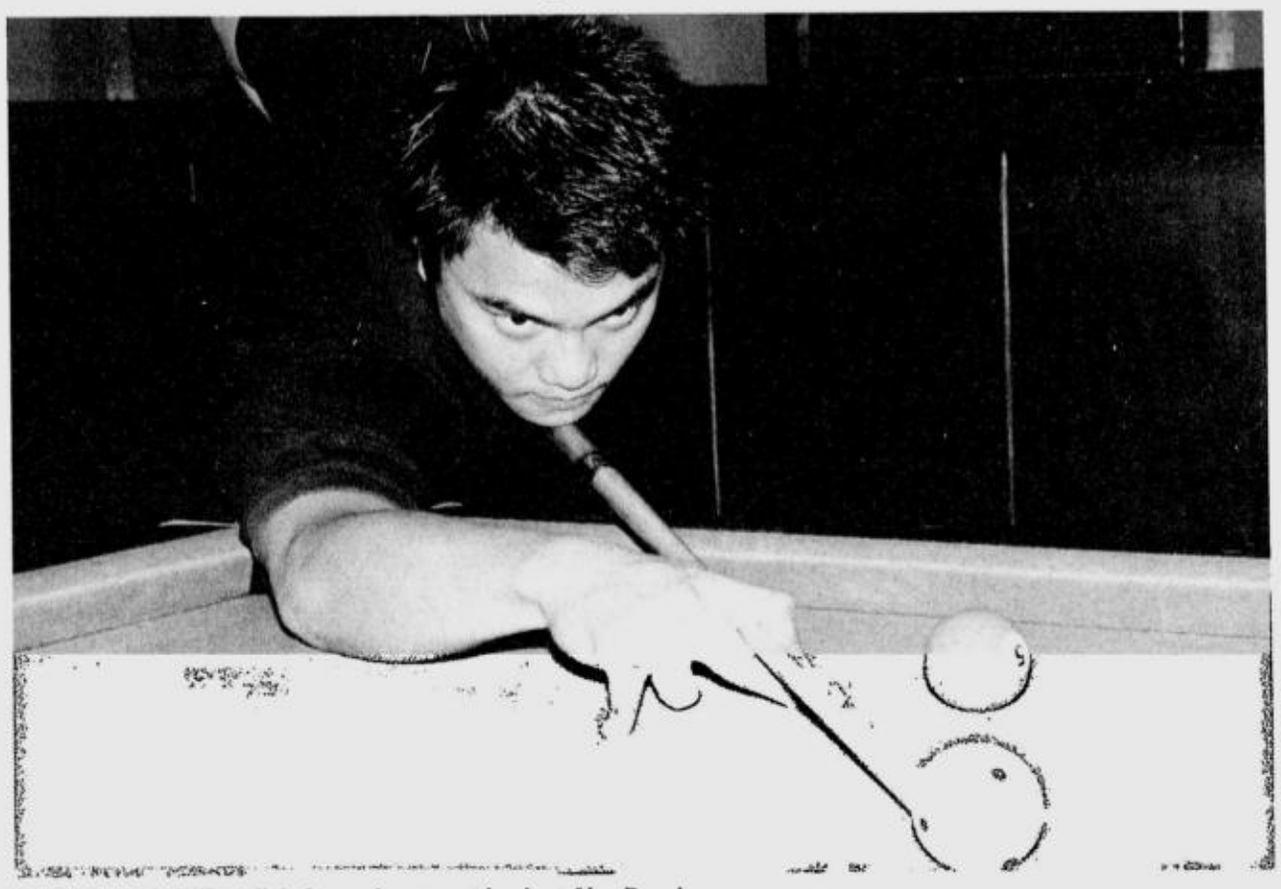
The 46-year-old Sambajon from Macalelon, Quezon, nipped Sean Morgan, 9-4, and Jerry Slivka, 9-7, in that order.

Sambajon will face Tony Ruberto, who subdued Keith Schneiderman, 9-4, and Jason Michas 9-6.

Michas sent another Filipino Ramon "Maestro Monching" Mistica of Murphy, Quezon City, to the loser's bracket after a 9-7 win in the first round. Mistica aims to bounce back in contention against Schneiderman.

Unheralded American James Roberts posted a 9-7 upset win against former World Pool champion Ralf Souquet of Germany in the second round.

Jeanette Lee and five-time world champion Johnny Archer also posted convincing victories over Shaun Wilkie, 9-6, and Chance Chin, 9-1. *Marlon Bernardino*



RISING star Jeff "Bata" de Luna aims to get back at Alex Pagulayan.

Valle shoots down Alcano, gains finals

By Musong R. Castillo

FLAUNTING COMPLETE TABLE CONTROL DESPITE BEING UNLUCKY ON the breaks, tiny Gandy Valle dished out a performance that ranks among the best in his career.

Despite six dry breaks, Valle put himself in the title match of the 2006 BSCP National Pool championship last night after taking out a disgusted Ronnie Alcano, 11-5, in the crossover phase at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The 32-year-old Davao native remained unbeaten after an impressive follow-up to what many thought was already a magical victory in the winner's bracket semifinal stage Friday night.

"I think I just had luck on my side," Valle said in Filipino. "Not everything went my way but I still found ways to win."

A multiple gold medal winner in the Southeast Asian Games since 1999, Valle took an early 4-0 lead despite failing to put a ball down in three breaks.

Valle was threatened only at 6-3, when Alcano, who got this far by bundling out Rolando Garcia, won two straight frames.

Valle clashes with either top-ranked Alex Pagulayan or Jeffrey de Luna, the tournament's giant-killer. Pagulayan and De Luna were still slugging it out in the other semifinal at presstime.

The Finals, where the winner goes home with P1 million and the runner-up settles for P500,000, will be played starting at 7 p.m.

One of two fairy tale stories came to a halt late Friday night, when Alcano took out qualifier Garcia, 9-8, to earn his place in the center table opposite the 1998 Asian Games hero Valle.

Garcia got to the hill with a three-rack lead before Alcano, the lanky native of Calamba, Laguna, who formally logged a protest on the soft break after going down to Pagulayan, got some luck to go with his game.

The soft break, which Valle used to destroy Dennis Orcullo, 9-1, also Friday night, created quite a stir after the semifinal matches in the winner's bracket that organizers outlawed it on the eve of the event's Final Four.

Orcollo topped Garcia, 9-6, in an impromptu playoff for the fourth outright slot in the World Pool Championship set Nov. 4-12 here in Manila.

Bata, Django battle Malta in World Cup

FILIPINO BILLIARDS MASTER EFREN "BATA" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante take on Malta's Tony Drago and Alex Borg at the start of World Cup of Pool (9-ball) Aug. 22 at the The Newport Centre, Newport, South Wales.

"It's been a long time since Efren and Django played Scotch doubles and I think they are in for a good fight since Drago and Borg are no pushovers," said billiards patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat.

"Let's pray for their success," said Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines president Ernesto Fajardo.

A total of 32 countries represented by its top two players are entered with the Filipino pair rated among the favorites.

The matches will be played on a straight knockout basis—five rounds of matches on one TV table. All matches are scotch doubles with alternate break.

The 40-year-old Drago from Valletta, Malta, won the last Amsterdam Open and reached the quarterfinals of the 2006 World Pool Masters. He won the World Pool Masters in 2003 and was a semifinalist in the 2003 World Pool Championships.

A fan of Bustamante, the 37-year-old Borg from Mellieha, Malta, is a snooker specialist.

A total pot of $250,000 is at stake with the champion team getting $60,000.

Europe will be represented by Croatia, Czech Republic, England A, England B, Finland, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Russia, Scotland, Spain, Sweden and Wales.

Other Asian teams entered are India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. *Marlon Bernardino*

Asean football tickets

WITH STILL THREE MONTHS TO GO BEFORE kick off, "seat demand for the Qualifying Round of the Asean Cup in Bacolod City is very high," according to PFF president Johnny Romualdez.

Romualdez credits this to the fact that the team fared well in the last SEA Games as well as the hangover brought about by the recent World Cup. Romualdez is confident that the Nationals can top this Qualifying Round and advance to the championship stage in January 2007 in Thailand and Singapore.

The PFF office has been receiving calls for tickets for over a month now with many Metro Manilans hoping to book their seats this early at the 15,000-seater Panaad Stadium in Bacolod City.

Cagayan de Oro hosts team chess

THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO IN MISAMIS Oriental will host the 2006 National Inter-Province Chess Team Championship and the Governor Oscar Moreno Individual Open Rapid Championship at the Atrium Hall inside the Limketkai Mall. The twin tournament, jointly sponsored by National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr. and the provincial government of Misamis Oriental, headed by Governor Moreno, offers a whopping total cash prize of P500,000.

"We'd like to thank Governor Moreno and the people of Misamis Oriental for hosting this tournament," said Pichay. "This is another proof that chess is alive and well, everywhere in the country and we'd like to enjoin all the provinces to join us in this undertaking."

PARTICIPANTS in the Nokia 3 division of the 2006 Nokia Cup intervillage golf tournament before teeing off at Forest Hills Golf and Country Club in Antipolo City. (From left) Philip Yao and Bobby de Ocampo of Greenhills I and Valle Verde 3/5's Danilo Relucio and Joey Uy.

WGAP stages Luzvimin golf in Cebu Aug. 23-25

MANILA SOUTHWOODS WILL try to extend its domination of the Diamond division when the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines (WGAP) in coordination with the Cebu Golf & Country Club Ladies Chapter stage the 2006 Luzvimin Golf Invitational Tournament on Aug. 23-25 at the Cebu Country Club course.

The Luzvimin is a 54-hole Stableford (Molave Scoring) team competition among the ladies chapter's of various golf clubs in the Philippines. Each team is made up of a minimum of four and a maximum of six players. The teams are classified into three divisions: Diamond, Ruby and Pearl divisions based on the average handicap of the team's four lowest handicappers.

Now on its 14th year, the Luzvimin was conceived to bring together the ladies chapters from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao in a friendly competition.

After 15 teams joined the first year, participation has grown and is now limited to 23 teams.

Already signifying their intention to join are Aguinaldo, Alabang, Alta Vista, Bacolod, Baguio, Cebu Country Club, ClubFilipino, Del Monte, Forest Hills, Iloilo, John Hay, Manila Golf, Negros, Pamplona, Phil. Navy, Riviera, Southwoods, Sta Elena, Victorias, Villamor, WackWack and new entry Tagaytay Highlands.

SPORTSWATCH

Fistorama features 2 fights

FISTORAMA FEATURES THIS AFTERNOON THE BOUTS BETWEEN FEATHERweights Rodel Bongcato and Genesis Mabalot in the four-round curtain raiser and super featherweights Ericson Asilo against Junel Alivio in the six-round event. Fistorama is shown through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV and RPN 9 at 3:30 p.m. "Golf Power Plus," featuring the elimination match between College of St. Benilde 1 and Far Eastern University 3 in the PCSO Women's Inter-Collegiate Beach Volleyball Challenge, airs at 3 p.m.

Las Piñas champs set to defend title

THE ANNUAL LAS PIÑAS 6-STAG DERBY, A GATHERING OF THE COUNTRY'S leading gamefowl breeders, gets going on Thursday and Saturday at Las Piñas Coliseum. Ready to defend the title are Marlon de Castro and Mandy Garcia of Batangas (DMC entry) who routed the 86-entry field last year after a 6-0 (win-loss) performance. To be hosted by former Mayor Nene Aguilar, the event is expected to draw more than 100 entries this year, and has a guaranteed prize of P1 million for an entry fee of P15,000. The champions will also get a huge trophy and three refrigerators. Meanwhile, coliseum manager Alex Tobias announced that walk-in participants may bring their stags on Thursday for simultaneous screening, leg banding and weigh-in, from 6-10 a.m. For inquiries, call 873-1040, 874-3910 and 0926-7450375 (Julius).

First leg of LGBA Stag Derby up

THE FIRST LEG OF LUZON GAMECOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LGBA) STAG Derby series will be staged in three venues. These will be at the Araneta Coliseum (Aug. 29 and 31); Malvar Sports Complex of Jun Sevilla (Sept. 5) and Bacolor Cockpit Arena headed by Jun Yap (Sept. 8). With more than 150 fights lined up at the Araneta derby, the event will start at 10 a.m., LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz said. The one-day, five-stag derby format will be adopted. Highlight of the four-leg series is the selection of this year's LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year. Sonny Lagon of Laguna (Blue Blade) and Eugene Tan of Bicol (Silver Buck) were last year's Gamecock Breeder of the Year co-winners. Contact 926-7808, 924-5072 and 924-5051 (loc. 128) for details.

Rambulan screening today at SJC

SCREENING OF STAGS WILL BE HELD TODAY IN CONNECTION WITH SAN Juan Coliseum's Rambulan 5-stag derby which will be sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. To accommodate the huge number of participants, screening will be extended from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. today, said promoter Ronnie Lacsina who is being backed by the SJC management. The first batch of more than 70 participants gears up for battle on Monday's 2-stag elimination round. Other schedules will be on Aug. 23, 25, 28 and 30. The stagfest offering P2.5 million in prizes was a spin-off of last month's Rambulan cockfest which attracted 289 entries. Entry fee is P8,800. Call 0918-9001411 or 725-5369 and 725-6563.

Manuel couple heads scramble victors

PONG MANUEL AND WIFE LIA, playing with different partners, emerged the winners in their respective divisions in the second eliminations leg of the Mizuno Scramble Classic at the Sherwood Hills Golf and Country Club course in Trece Martires, Cavite City.

Pong Manuel joined hands with the burly Erwin Vinluan for a seven-under 65 and a two-shot win over Luis Oh and his partner Errol Dy who claimed runner-up honors via the countback in Division 1.

Not to be outdone, Lia Manuel combined with Ruben Tan for a 73 that won them the Division 3 plum over Odie Galang and Teddy Dayday, who placed second also after a tiebreak in the tourney. revived by Mizuno through its local distributor Master Sports due to popular demand.

Nila Patricio and Joey de Jesus took the Division 2 crown of the tourney given major support by The Benner at the Riviera, Casino Filipino/Pagcor, BMW Philippines and Philippine Airlines.

The other sponsors are Citibank, Mail&More, Renee Barbier Wines, Discovery Suites, Pepsi, Gatorade, BMG Solar, Power Bar, Oakley, Citgo, C-Lium Fibre, INQUIRER Golf and Golf Digest Philippines.

Patricio and De Jesus scored a 72 to finish a shot better than Marilyn Ty and Jason Yu.

All three division champions qualified for the finals scheduled next year at the Ayala Greenfield Estates course. The winners will win all-expense paid trips to Japan where they will be given the chance to watch the LPGA Mizuno Classic as bonus.

They join the previous winners at Valley in the list of qualifiers. Next up is the eliminations leg at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club on Sept. 16.

Master Sports Lovell Gopez also joined players from various sponsoring firms in a friendly game provided them by the host club. For inquiries, email scramble@mizuno.ph.

Perpetual, St. Francis, La Salle-HSC win

PERPETUAL HELP-MOLINO, ST. Francis of Assisi-Bacoor and host La Salle Health and Science Campus crushed their respective rivals at the start of the 7th Southern Luzon Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SLCUAA) at the grounds of Palaruang La Salle, De La Salle Health Science Campus in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The Molino Altas, starring power spikers Erik Espultero and Robert Buenamente, swept STI-Sta. Rosa, 25-11, 25-14, 25-9, in men's volleyball, before their women counterparts followed suit with a 25-27, 25-18, 25-23, 25-08 victory over La Salle-HSC.

Other volleyball results saw San Pedro College of Business Administration wallop the hosts, 25-16, 25-14, 25-18, in the men's competition; and Philippine Christian U-Dasma beat STI-Sta. Rosa, 25-14, 25-15, 25-13, in the distaff side.

In Faculty and Staff Basketball, La Salle-HSC posted a 93-86 victory over PCU-Dasma in a game where Mac Bautista scored a game-high 27 points.

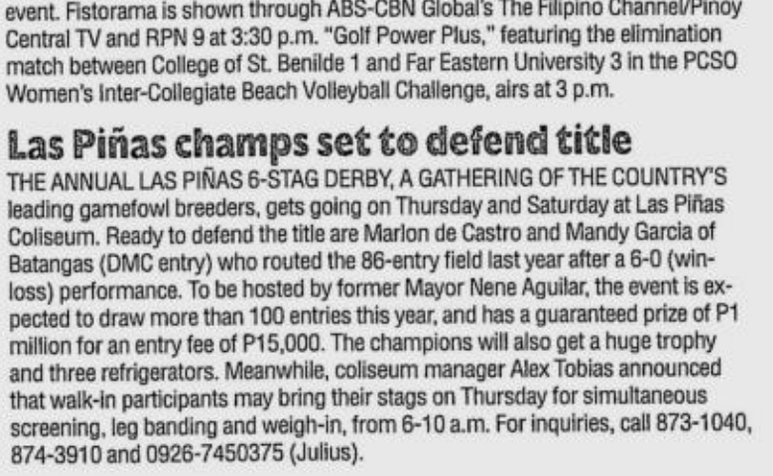
But the biggest triumph for the day belonged to the St. Francis of Assisi College-Bacoor Doves, who massacred STI-Sta. Rosa, 102-21, to begin their campaign on a blazing note.

Benedicto Dela Cruz of SFAC scored 32 points and got ample support from Eulever Eraso, who banged away 23 markers.

"We are looking forward to a bigger season this year," said SLCUAA president Benjo Viola of St. Francis-Bacoor. "From our humble beginnings seven years ago, we have grown to be the premier athletic association in Southern Luzon and we intend to keep it that way."

Other members of the league are Perpetual Help-Calamba, Brent International School (Manila), Collegio San Agustin (Biñan), Lyceum Institute of Technology and new member Cavite State University.

Sports directors of the school members, together with Dr. Romeo P. Ariniego, VP for Academic Services of DLS-HSC, Mayor Elpidio Barzaga of Dasmariñas, Cavite, and former cage star Jayvee Gayoso attended the opening ceremonies. St. Francis of Assisi third year high school student Toni Mae Martinez was adjudged Best Muse.



OFFICIALS of the Southern Luzon Colleges and Universities Athletic Association. (From left) Mike Fudotan of STI, auditor; Don Linatoc of Lyceum, Sports coordinator; Tony Abad of Brent, treasurer; Benjo Viola of St. Francis, president; Rosendo Taguinod of UPHSD Molino, treasurer and Paulo Belen of DLS-HSC, sports coordinator.

La Consolacion leans on junior stars to thwart PCA

LA CONSOLACION TENNIS CLUB LEANED on juniors stalwarts Kyle Joshua Dandan and Ralph Kevin Barte to dethrone Philippine Columbian Association, 5-2, yesterday in the Prince Home and Away Invitational Team Tennis tournament at the La Consolacion Tennis Club indoor court in Paranaque City.

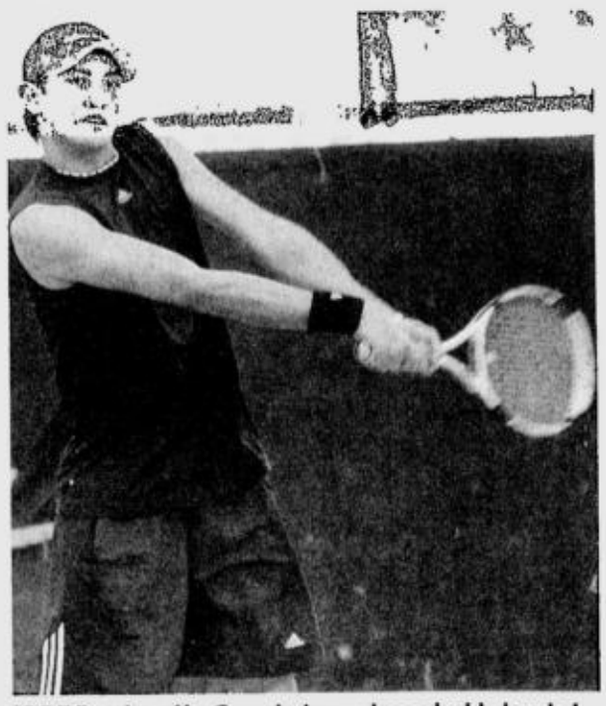
Dandan and Barte, both members of the RP Junior Davis Cup team two years ago, outplayed Michael Misa and Julius Kraut, 8-7 (3), in the final of the men's open division.

La Consolacion took a 2-0 lead after Butch Mejico and Gerald Maronilla won by default over Hanky Lee and Aldrin Geluz in the men's 35 above division while Manny Capulong and Korean Hae Won Seo scored an 8-3 victory over Albert Chiu and Boy Santos in the men's 45 above category.

PCA bounced back in the men's 35 division after Charlie Niu and Mike Sy beat Jay Suntay and Nestor Baui, 8-3, but La Consolacion made it 3-1 when Jimmy Tiongco and Danny Villacarlos won the men's 55 division over Ed Reyes and Conrad Francisco, 8-4,

In other matches, La Consolacion's Pio Tolentino and Dodong Rubillar downed Ivan Santos and Roland Kraut, 8-3, in the other men's open division while PCA's Joy Sanchez and Deborah Lee outclassed Luz Maestrado and Cecil Araos, 8-3, in the ladies class.

La Consolation Tennis Club owner Dave Mercado awarded the Prince Home and Away glass trophies, medals and Prince products to the winners of the event supported by Yellow Cab Pizza.



KYLE Dandan of La Consolacion makes a double-handed backhand return in his match against PCA yesterday.

RP 9-Ball Open slates qualifiers

THE SAN MIGUEL PHILIPPINE 9-BALL OPEN GOES regional this year with five qualifying legs slated in Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and National Capital Region areas.

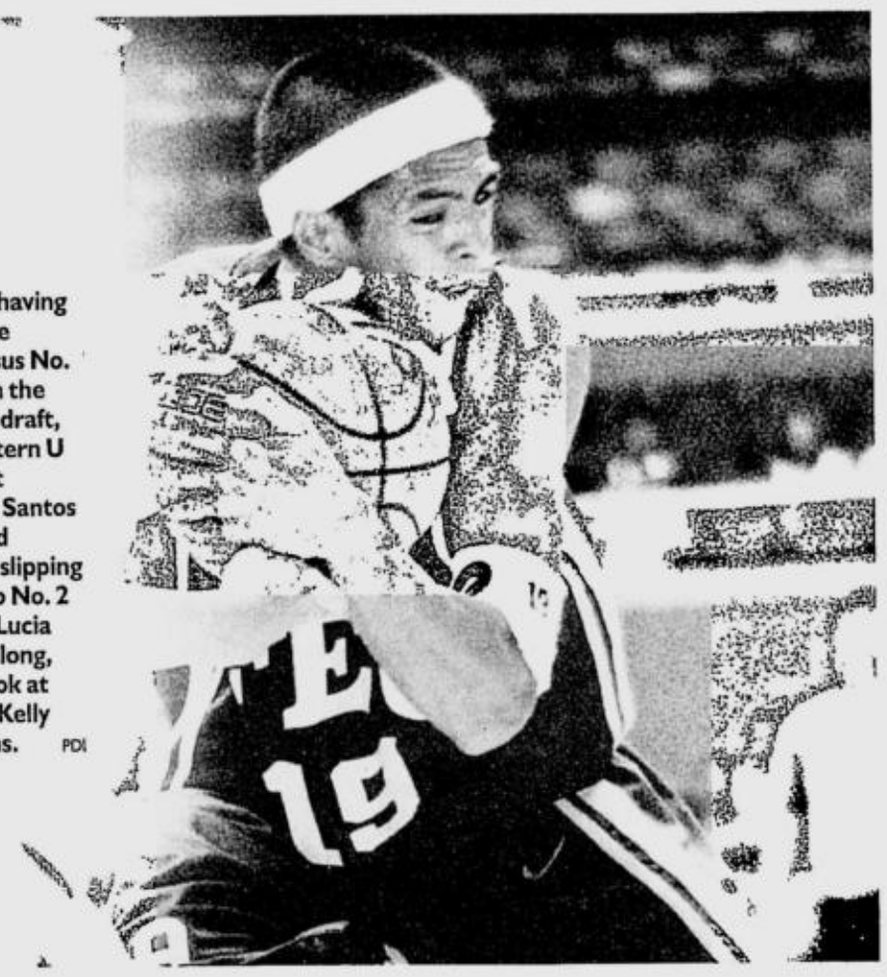
The first leg of the annual tournament gets under way on Aug. 26-27 in Davao City. Registration fee is P1,000, inclusive of a case of San Miguel Beer.

The event co-organized by Solar Sports and Puyat Sports and supported by San Miguel will have stops at the Robinson's Galleria on Sept. 2-3, Cebu City on Sept. 9-10, Baguio City on Sept. 23-24 and Ever Commonwealth on Sept. 30-Oct. 1.

The top four players i n every leg will receive P5,000 each and advance to the finals on Oct. 12-14 where they will join the 12 seeded players, including the top eight finishers last year. Solar Sports, Puyat Sports and San Miguel will shoulder the transportation and accommodation expenses of the provincial winners

Invited to the finals are pool legends Efren "Bata" Reyes, Jose "Amang" Parica, Marlon Manalo and Ramil Gallego.

Realtors torn between Fil-Am, Santos



AFTER having been the consensus No. I pick in the coming draft, Far Eastern U product Arwind Santos may find himself slipping down to No. 2 as Sta. Lucia takes a long, hard look at Fil-Am Kelly Williams. PDI PHOTO

By June Navarro

EITHER STA. LUCIA REALTY SHEDS OFF ITS HOMEgrown image or lets go one of the most exciting prospects in the Philippine Basketball Association in recent years.

This is the dilemma facing the Realtors when they choose this year's top overall pick during the annual PBA rookie draft today at the Market! Market! shopping center in Taguig.

Though Sta. Lucia officials are keeping their lips sealed, chances are the Realtors would exercise the No. 1 pick on Kelly Williams, the only Filipino-American rookie hopeful in the draft who has become the obsession of every team in the league.

Or, the Realtors could go back to their original choice—FEU's Arwind Santos—and be the laughing stock of the PBA as one official succinctly called it.

Not that the 6-foot-5 Santos, who led the Tamaraws to two UAAP crowns with his twin MVP performances, is a mediocre choice. But passing up Williams would be like closing a door of opportunity for a Sta. Lucia championship.

Acquiring an impact player has become a must for the Realtors now that the team's old stars—Kenneth Duremdes, Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espinos—are nearing the twilight of their careers.

Aside from his credentials, the reasons for grabbing Williams are also compelling.

The versatile 6-foot-5 wingman out of Oakland University has been the most electrifying player in the RP men's basketball team composed mostly of PBA players.

National team mentor and San Miguel Beer coach Chot Reyes, who encouraged Williams to come over from the US, rues that his Beermen don't have a chance of tapping Williams in the draft.

And consider this: San Miguel Corporation would not have bankrolled Williams' stay in the country for almost two years if the Detroit, Michigan native isn't worth it.

Sta. Lucia's impending choice of Williams, however, reportedly doesn't' excite Magnolia's go-to guy in the Philippine Basketball League. And the 24-year-old Williams, who missed last year's draft because of his citizenship papers, was quick to deny it.

"I don't wanna get caught up in the ins and outs of all those speculations," said Williams. "As far as I'm concerned, I'm just happy at the opportunity to be in the draft. Let God's will be done."

Though the reality of not getting Williams has been a jolt to Reyes and the Beermen, the choice of Williams as the top overall pick could be pleasing to Air21 governor and team manager Lito Alvarez.

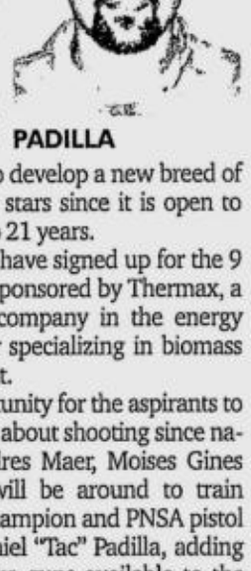
Selecting second overall, the Express will certainly tab Santos to shore up its frontline while the Coca-Cola Tigers, who will be picking third, are torn between forwards Mark Isip and Gabby Espinas.

The Tigers need a big man to fill the void left by Billy Mamaril and Rafi Reavis who were sent to the Barangay Ginebra Kings following a three-team trade involving the Express.

With Williams out, the Beermen are keen on using their fourth and fifth overall picks on Ateneo guard Lewis Alfred Tenorio and whoever remains available between Isip and Espinas.

The Realtors could take Joseph Yeo at No. 6 while Alaska (seventh), Talk 'N Text (eighth), Purefoods (ninth) and Welcoat Paints could take the best talent available.

PNSA's new star search up Aug. 26



PADILLA

THE PHILIPPINE National Shooting Association's 1st Airgun Markmanship Training Seminar starts on Aug. 26 at the PSC range in Fort Bonifacio.

A brainchild of two-time Olympian and PNSA president Art Macapagal, the event hopes to develop a new breed of young Filipino shooting stars since it is open to boys and girls aged 12 to 21 years.

So far, 38 individuals have signed up for the 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. seminar sponsored by Thermax, a leading multi-national company in the energy and environment sector specializing in biomass and coal-fired equipment.

"This is a good opportunity for the aspirants to learn a lot of new things about shooting since national coaches like Andres Maer, Moises Gines and Alberto Adriano will be around to train them," said perennial champion and PNSA pistol committee chair Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, adding that the PNSA will make guns available to the participants. Padilla and Macapagal will give the opening and closing remarks, respectively. The other speakers are Col. Danilo Gamboa, Maer, Gines and Adriano. Late entries may go to the PSC range in Fort Bonifacio. Call Apaul Cabrera or Mario Dasalla at 636-0627 and 636-0635.

Innova at stake in Rotary golf

A TOYOTA INNOVA WILL BE THE HOLE-IN-one prize in the 20th RGFFP (Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of t he Philippines) Southern Leg Tournament on Aug. 24-26 in Bacolod City.

RGFFP board chair Paqui Ortigas said Toyota Philippines marketing vice president Danny Isla and Toyota Cubao and Toyota Manila Bay president Leo Ferreira had agreed to the sponsorship.

RGFFP president Poch Borromeo said the deadline for early bird entries has been extended until Tuesday. PDG and former Vice Mayor Chick Garcia of RC-Bacolod North, past president Baby Infante of RC-Bacolod bared that Bacolod Rotarians will host a dinner on Aug. 25 at the new Marapara Clubhouse. Contact Pauline Sevilla at 0920-9199000, 7248174 or fax 7215940.

Hawks continue NAASCU recovery

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SLOWLY BUT SURELY, UNIVERSITY OF Manila is getting its groove back.

The five-time defending champion showed signs of recovery after a rough start, scoring a 64-61 come-from-behind victory over Centro Escolar yesterday to gain foothold in the second round of the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities.

Finally showing the pride and bearing of the team that held the longest winning streak in collegiate basketball history, the Hawks fought hardest in the endgame with old reliables Pol Santiago and Onofre Napiza striking with game-winning baskets at the UM Gym.

With the Scorpions holding a 61-60 edge, Santiago first escaped with a jumper with just 47 seconds left to gain the upperhand. The Hawks put up one defensive stop in the next play and went to the driving Napiza to complete the scoring with 27.5 seconds to go.

CEU, last year's runner-up, made one last stand but could not execute as UM employed full-court presses that used up the clock.

It was the Hawks' fifth win in nine games, improving their chances of making the six-team second round following a horrible 0-3 start.

The Scorpions managed to stay among the top half of the standings with a 5-3 record, behind San Sebastian-Cavite (7-1), STI (6-2) and AMACU (5-2).

The scores:

FIRST GAME (srs)

UM 64 – Santiago 24, Napiza 15, Bonus 11, Malliksi 7, Delostrinos 6, Advincula 1, Gobis 0, Estacio 0, Hupana 0, Facun 0, Ocampo 0, Operana 0.

CEU 61 – Gatdula 11, Magno 11, Carillo 10, Franco 10, Macasaet 10, Camacho 5, Dayag 2, Manajero 2, Salamat 0.

Quarters: 18-14, 27-23, 45-43, 64-61

Lapid to look into travel woes of Pinoy cue artists

SEN. LITO LAPID HAS ASSURED SOME OF the country's top pool players he would help facilitate the issuance of travel documents they need to compete in international tournaments.

The chairman of the Senate committee on Games, Amusement and Sports promised his support before an audience with the cue artists led by their manager and billiards patron Ceferino Mariano at the Manila Hotel's Senator's lounge Thursday.

Mariano informed Lapid that some of his players have failed to secure visas needed for them to compete in big international competitions in the US.

He said the US visa application of Antonio Gabica, a gold medalist in last year's Manila Southeast Asian Games and the 2004 Fil 9-ball open champion from Lapu-Lapu City, was turned down three times.

He added that the fast-rising Roberto Gomez from Zamboanga City was denied last month.

Mariano noted that even the 27-year-old Dennis Orcollo, who won five of the seven tournaments in the US pool circuit this year, was denied twice before he got his visa last January.

Only recently, Orcollo finished third worth $80,000 in the 2006 North American Open International 8-ball shoot-out in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"These players are among the new generation of cue artists who can easily be a source of pride for our country. They must be given special attention just our OFWs who are considered "Bagong Bayani" by our government," said Mariano.

Lapid asked the group to submit a formal letter so the matter can be studied thoroughly and the problem addressed by the proper agency.

He also instructed his head consultant Baby Pascual, who used to work at the US Embassy, to look into the possibility of the players being issued "courtesy visa" or "red passport."

Marlon Bernardino, contributor

CUE MASTERS: Members of Bugsy's Promotion Billiards Stable of Perry and Verna Mariano are competing in the 2006 BSCP National Championships. (from Left) Jeffrey De Luna, Jherome Peña, Dennis Orcollo, Antonio Gabica, Perry and Verna Mariano, Elmer Kalaquian, Roberto Gomez, Carlo Biado and Ronnie Alcano.

JOEY Orduna (No. 98) was way ahead midway the 20-lap race to rule the Mini-ROK division over favorites Renz Pazcoguin and Franco Reyes recently in the sixth leg of the 2006 Shell Superkarting Series at the Ekart Track of the Enchanted Kingdom. Inset: Orduna raises his trophy.

Orduna heads big haul for Tuason Racing team

JOEY ORDUNA DELIVERED THE biggest win for Tuason Racing recently in the sixth leg of the 2006 Shell Superkarting Series at the Ekart Track of the Enchanted Kingdom.

The 10-year-old Orduna, a fifth grader of Maria Montessori School, quickly stepped on the gas and built a wide margin midway to score a big upset over favorites Renz Pazcoguin and Franco Reyes in the Mini-ROK division.

He finished second behind Pazcoguin in the first two races but a quick dive at the green light signal grabbed the pole and he never looked back from there.

Orduna wrapped up the 20-lap race in 12 minutes and 25.270 seconds as he finished 11 seconds ahead of Pazcoguin and Reyes, who checked in second and third, respectively.

"At the start of the race, I tried to overtake everybody and never look back," said Joey, son of Jacob Orduna and the former Zenaida Buenaventura. "I pushed myself to the limit even if it's raining and it was a good experience."

With his feat, Joey earned 88 points for the day and moved up to second overall in the title race with 310 points or just 65 points behind Pazcoguin.

Juha Turalba, Robbie Benito and Toti Turalba also delivered respectable finishes for The Tuason Racing Team.

WOODS: Down by just one REUTERS

Woods lurks behind strange mix at top

MEDINAH, ILLINOIS—NO EUROPEAN has won a major championship in seven years, no alternate has claimed one in 15 years and no one called "Lumpy" has ever taken a Grand Slam title.

Think Tiger Woods is worried?

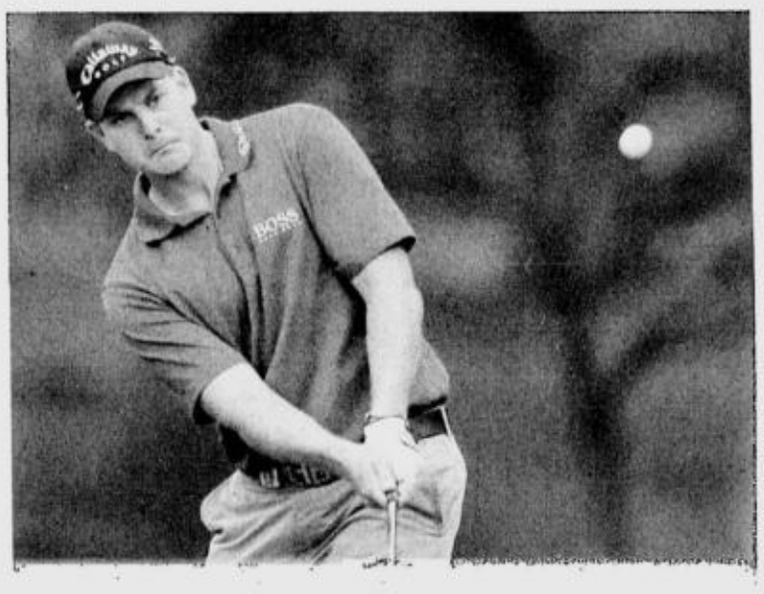
On a dreary, misty Friday at Medinah Country Club, Woods played the kind of conservative, strategic golf that has seen him win a major championship and play his last 14 rounds in 60 under par.

He shot 4-under-par 68 during the second round of the 88th PGA Championship to finish a stroke behind a foursome of leaders whose career victory totals don't come close to even half of Woods' PGA Tour haul of 50.

Sweden's Henrik Stenson and England's Luke Donald were joined atop the leaderboard by Billy Andrade, who didn't learn he had gotten into the field until Tuesday, and Tim Herron, who goes by the nickname Lumpy.

Woods, who won the 1999 PGA here, was tied with US Open champion Geoff Ogilvy (68) and former PGA champ Davis Love (69).

Four more players, including David Toms and Fred Funk, were just two back of the lead, with Sergio Garcia and Mike Weir in a group three back. Mickelson shot 71 and was four back, in a tie for 18th.



HENRIK Stenson chips to the fourth green. AP

"I'm in good shape, only one back," said Woods, who last month won the British Open to tie Walter Hagen with 11 major championships, and two weeks ago won the Buick Open for his 50th PGA Tour title, joining just six others with that many victories.

"There's a bunched leaderboard. You knew it was going to be that way with soft greens, and that's basically what it's turned out to be. You've got to make some birdies here and there and try not to give anything back."

That was the case for Woods, who had four birdies and no bogeys, including an 18-footer for birdie at the 18th, to put him at 137, seven under par. It was another day of low scoring at Medinah, with 62 more rounds under par. The 36-hole cut came at par 144.

Woods trailed two European Ryder Cup members in Stenson and Donald, both of whom are ranked among the top 20 in the world.

Stenson, 30, has a victory and two runner-up finishes this year on the European PGA Tour, and Donald won the Honda Classic. Both shot 68 to finish at 136, 8 under par.

But they are trying to buck some bad odds. It is tough enough with Woods in hot pursuit, but no European has won a major championship since Paul Lawrie at the British Open in 1999.

And the last to win the PGA? Scotland's Tommy Armour in 1930.

Donald, at least, has a good taste for America, having gone to school at nearby Northwestern, where he won an NCAA individual title in 1999. He makes his home in Chicago and played Medinah several times before this week.

"I think I've got to the stage right now where I feel like I should be competing and having a chance to win majors," said Donald. "I think in previous majors I've been getting a little bit ahead of myself. I've been coming into it expecting to play well and putting a little too much pressure on myself." *NYTimes News Service*

Fan swats back Tiger's errant drive

MEDINAH, ILLINOIS—A HALF-hour drive from Wrigley Field, Tiger Woods got a benevolent bounce Friday from a helpful fan.

The fan-generated ricochet toward the first fairway on Woods' wayward tee shot might or might not have impacted his score. But it established an early precedent for stunning momentum swings during a second round filled with them at the PGA Championship.

The last one proved to be the most pivotal. It swung in favor of Colonial champ Tim Herron, who drained the last two birdie putts he lined up during a second-round 67 to move to 8-under par and into a four-way tie for the lead.

Herron, who began his round on the back nine, said the late-afternoon drizzle allowed him to be "a little more aggressive" on his shots down the stretch. He capitalized by covering the flagstick with his tee shot on the par-3 eighth hole, setting up a tap-in birdie. At his final hole, Herron said he got "a good read" from playing partner KJ Choi and buried the 30-footer that vaulted him into a share of the lead.

"Starting the week, I never thought anyone would be this low going into the weekend," Herron said. "But we haven't had much wind. The greens are soft. If you hit good shots, you're making birdies."

Davis Love III joined Woods and Geoff Ogilvy in a three-player group at one stroke off the pace.

"I'm making it interesting every day," said Love, who had a triple-bogey in the first round. "But it's a major. And if you don't hit good shots, you can make bogeys really quick."

Unless, of course, you get an assist from a fan who swats your errant tee shot back toward the fairway. That happened for Woods at No. 1. With his drive heading toward the left trees, a fan reached out and deflected it back toward the fairway. Woods saved par from the deep rough.

"I knew I got a weird hop," Woods said, when told the story after his round. "Hey, I appreciate it. It's nice to have Shaq out there knocking them back."

NYTimes News Service

Ogilvy thrives under the spotlight

MEDINAH, ILLINOIS—IF FRIDAY WAS JUST about the golf, Geoff Ogilvy would have owned the joint.

For the second day in a row, the Aussie was smack dab in the middle of the biggest gallery—for most of the day, it felt like the only gallery on sprawling Medinah Country Club—and unlike playing partners Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, Ogilvy actually spent most of it playing from the middle of the fairway. Not that most people noticed.

Though Ogilvy and Woods are tied at 7-under 137, a stroke off the lead and three better than Mickelson, when the three emerged from the scoring trailer after the second round, his two more illustrious companions were immediately encircled by media scrums. Seizing on the opportunity, one opportunistic TV interviewer pulled Ogilvy over to the side.

"Sure," Ogilvy joked before the on-air light flashed, "get the Australian out of the way."

That won't be an easy task over the weekend, based on the way Ogilvy played the first two days here. He beat Woods and Mickelson in every statistical category that mattered—most birdies, fairways hit and greens in regulation, not to mention fewest putts—and just as impressive, Ogilvy looked like he belonged.

"Well," said Woods, "there's a reason why he's the US Open champion."

"Man," echoed Mickelson, "he sure hit it pure."

If only the crowds lining every fairway were half as impressed.

OGILVY REUTERS

At No. 6 Mickelson hit an overhanging branch barely 30 yards (27 meters) from the tee with his drive and the ball caromed way right, finally coming to rest some 50 yards (46 meters) right of the fairway. In amoeba-like fashion, most of the gallery along the right side lurched off in that direction, past a line of trees, and surrounded the ball. The few spectators who hadn't peeled off proceeded to slide down the ropes and clustered in the right rough, where a marshal had thrown his hat over Woods' errant drive to make sure his caddie could find it.

Ogilvy, meanwhile, striped his drive down the middle of the fairway, hit his approach to 8 feet and watched Woods and Mickelson scramble all over the place with a sly smile on his face. Soon after, the three were reunited on the green. In short order, Mickelson knocked down a 40-footer for par to wild cheers, and Woods, accompanied by a loud roar, rolled in a 12-footer to save his.

By the time Ogilvy made his birdie, about all the crowd could summon was polite applause. It was the third of four straight birdies, and the reaction to the others wasn't much better. Instead of being exasperated, the self-deprecating Aussie was grateful.

"A lot of guys would have killed for an experience like that," he said. "I'm pretty fortunate I got to play two days with those guys. One, because you learn a lot by watching them play. And two, because you learn how to deal with all the stuff that goes on in their world.

"It's a bit different from mine," he added. "They can keep their world, but it's fun for a few days. You can't help but gain confidence."

But that wasn't all.

While Ogilvy never expected to be the crowd favorite, he did draw some satisfaction from being recognized now and then. Until he capitalized on Mickelson's meltdown at the US Open in June, he was often confused with PGA Tour regular Joe Ogilvie. So much so that on Thursday, squeezed in among all the "Go, Phil!" and "You're the man, Tiger!" shouts was at least one "Go, Joe."

"Obviously, the crowd was a bit more vocal today than yesterday. I guess they had a bit more time," Ogilvy said, recalling Thursday's 8:30 a.m tee time, "to get themselves in the mood.

"But there were no more 'Go, Joes!' today," he added with some satisfaction, "and quite a few more, 'Go, Geoffs!'" *AP*

Jones flunks dope test, says source

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA—TRIPLE Olympic sprint champion Marion Jones has failed an initial doping test, a source familiar with the test said.

The positive test of Jones' A sample occurred at the June US championships in Indianapolis, the source, who did not wish to be identified, said.

US media reported the blood-boosting drug erythropoietin (EPO) had been found in Jones' urine sample.

Under anti-doping protocols, an athlete is not considered to have committed a doping offense until his or her B sample has tested positive and the athlete has been afforded an arbitration hearing.

Jones would face a minimum of a two-year ban if it is determined she has committed a doping offense.

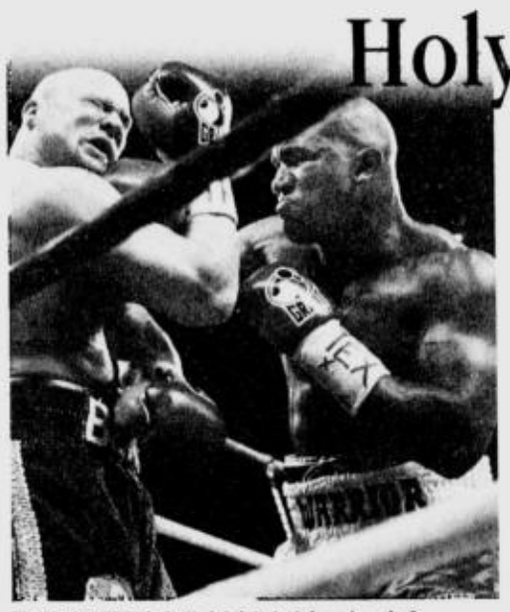
Neither the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) nor the US Olympic Committee (USOC) would comment.

A spokesman for the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) said it was unable to comment on individual cases until the result of the B sample was known or if the athlete in question had been suspended from competition.

Jones' general counsel also would not discuss the matter.

"It is unfortunate that the integrity and the confidentiality of the testing process may have been breached, but Marion Jones has always been clear, she has never taken performance-enhancing substances, not now, not ever," Rich Nichols said in a statement. *Reuters*

Holyfield starts comeback with TKO



EVANDER Holyfield (right) lands a left against Jeremy Bates. AFP

DALLAS, TEXAS—EVANDER HOLYfield began his latest comeback looking a lot more like "The Real Deal" than he has in years.

Holyfield rocked Jeremy Bates into the ropes late in the first round, withstood a few hard shots—including one to his face—early in the second, then cornered and pummeled his insurance-salesman foe to earn a technical knockout with 4 seconds left in the round, capturing his first victory since June 2002.

"I was able to do the things I haven't been doing in about five years," said Holyfield, crediting his 21-month layoff for renewed health.

The 43-year-old Holyfield ended a career-worst skid of three straight losses since his last victory, over Hasim Rahman. That doesn't even include getting KO'd last summer on the reality television show "Dancing With The Stars."

A crowd of about 8,000 chanted "Holy-field!" about 45 seconds in, then the four-time heavyweight champion really got them roaring over the last 30 seconds of the first round. He trapped Bates on the far side of the ring, bouncing him against the ropes with a flurry of punches. The bell saved him from further damage.

Bates (21-12-2) had his best success with several hard rights that pushed Holyfield back in the second round. A body blow followed the pop in the chops, but several clinches sapped whatever momentum Bates was building.

Holyfield soon pinned Bates again and began pounding his face and body. There was so little resistance that the referee stopped the fight rather than let Bates be saved by the bell again.

This fight began what's being hyped as "Holyfield V, The Final Chapter," a comeback he fully expects to end with him becoming the heavyweight champion for the fifth time. He's already the only person to do it four times.

He figures his age isn't a factor because George Foreman got the title at 45. And he dismisses his lack of success the past five years to a shoulder injury and cramps, all of which healed during a long layoff partially forced by New York officials revoking his license because of "diminished skills and poor performance" in his previous fight, a November 2004 loss to Larry Donald. *AP*

Phelps leads US swimming charge at Pan Pacific event

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA—MICHAEL Phelps won his second individual gold medal of the Pan Pacific Championships, then returned as leadoff swimmer on the United States' victorious 800-meter freestyle relay Friday.

Neither effort produced a world record, although the quartet of Phelps, Ryan Lochte, Peter Vanderkaay and Klete Keller were under pace most of the way until Keller lost it on the final lap.

They won in 7 minutes, 05.28 seconds, topping Australia's Pan Pac record of 7:08.79. It was the Americans' sixth gold medal of the night.

The United States won by a whopping 7.11 seconds over Canada and bronze-medalist Australia.

Phelps demolished the 400 individual medley field by more than 3 seconds.

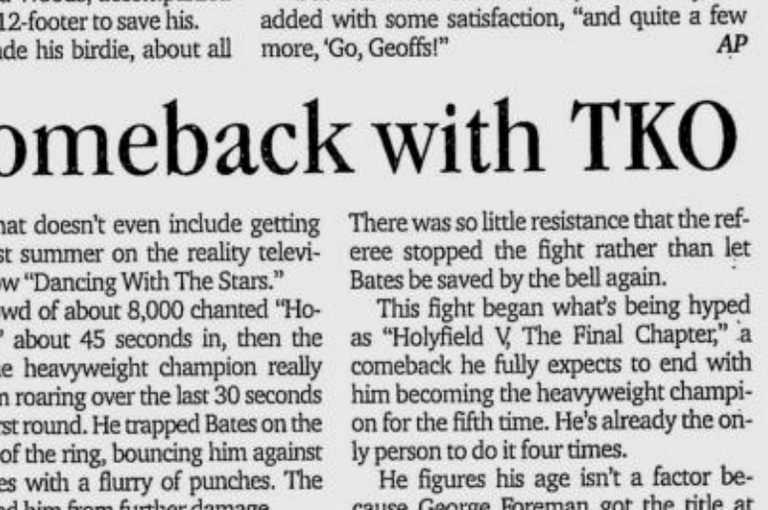
He took the lead for good after two laps, then cruised home in 4:10.47—well off his 2-year-old world mark, but good enough to better his Pan Pac record of 4:12.48 set in 2002.

American teammate Robert Margalis earned silver in 4:13.85. Thiago Pereira captured Brazil's first medal of the meet with a bronze.

Phelps grimaced as he made his way to the edge of the pool, clearly disappointed in not setting another world record like he did in the 200 butterfly Thursday night.

Katie Hoff matched Phelps with her second individual gold, then anchored the US women to victory in the 800 free relay.

The team of Natalie Coughlin, Lacey Nymeyer, Dana Vollmer and Hoff won in 4:54.62, bettering the Pan Pac record set by the United States. Australia was 3.38 seconds behind for silver. *AP*



MILO MARATHON TEAM IN LAOAG: Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. (3rd from right) and Board Member Michael Keon (extreme right) welcome the Milo Marathon team at the Ilocos Norte Capitol yesterday. The team, composed of (from right) Cathy Arguelles of Publicis Manila, Milo Events Sports Executive Pat Goc Ong, marathon organizer Rudy Biscocho and technical staff Thelma Biscocho and Jaylyne Sarmiento, will help in the staging of the Laoag Leg slated today.

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS ON TV
SOLAR SPORTS
7 p.m.—France vs. Serbia & Montenegro
9 p.m.—USA vs. China
RPN-9
9 p.m. - USA vs. China

US trips Puerto Rico

Germany strikes; Australia forges upset

HAMAMATSU, JAPAN—THE UNITED STATES continued its dominance over Puerto Rico while Dallas Mavericks center Dirk Nowitzki led Germany over host Japan on the opening day of the World Championships.

Nowitzki had 27 points and 10 rebounds in Germany's 81-70 win Saturday, while the Americans, improving to 8-1 against Puerto Rico at the world titles, won 111-100.

In other first-day matches, Milwaukee Bucks center Andrew Bogut scored 10 points to help Australia beat Brazil, 83-77.

Elsewhere, Angola beat Panama, 83-70, European champion Greece overcame a slow start to beat first-timer Qatar, 84-64, and Slovenia beat Senegal, 96-79.

The 24 teams are playing in four groups, with the top four in each group advancing to the round of 16 after a preliminary schedule of five games each ending next Thursday. The gold medal final is scheduled for Sept. 3.

The 2.13-meter (7-foot) Nowitzki, who led the Mavericks to the NBA finals this season, dominated inside and outside early, scoring 20 points and grabbing nine rebounds as Germany took a 50-37 halftime lead. His 15-point haul in the first quarter included two 3-pointers.

"He is a coach's dream in that he will do anything you want," Germany coach Dirk Bauermann said of Nowitzki. "I told him that he would have to have a great start and be aggressive early and score for us to be successful.

"He is a true team player and we are very fortunate to have him."

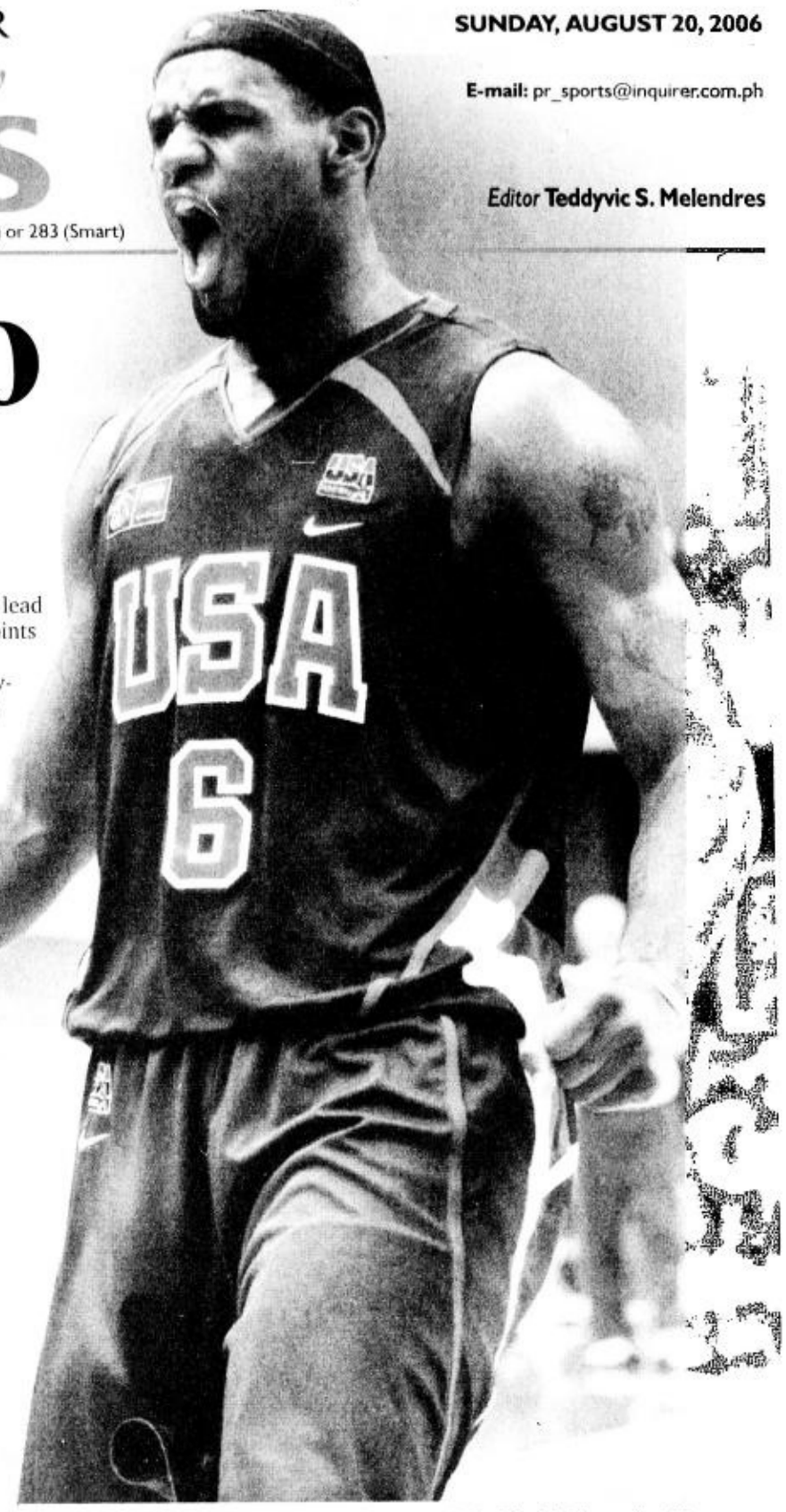
At Sapporo, it took the Americans most of the first half to get going against Puerto Rico. Carmelo Anthony scored 21 points, and LeBron James and Kirk Hinrich each added 15 apiece as the Americans overcame a sluggish start.

"We didn't get off to the start we wanted to," American guard Kirk Hinrich said. "We played in stretches. A lot of that is a credit to Puerto Rico and the way they played and the effort they gave."

Carlos Arroyo scored 23 points to lead Puerto Rico, which led by four points midway through the second quarter.

"They did a tremendous job of moving the ball," said Arroyo, who plays for the Orlando Magic. "Playing as a team, that's what basketball is all about."

In featured matches Sunday when all teams play again, France takes on Serbia and Montenegro and the United States plays China. *AP*



LEBRON James and the US flex their muscles at the start of the World Championships. REUTERS

Lebanon finds 'ray of sunshine'

FADI El Khatib hugs teammate Bassem Balaa after their victory. AFP

SENDAI, JAPAN—JOSEPH VOGEL and Fadi El Khatib scored key baskets in the final minutes Saturday to lead Lebanon to an 82-72 win over Venezuela at the basketball world championships.

Vogel, who was born in the United States but holds Lebanese citizenship, gave Lebanon a 76-67 lead with a two-handed slam dunk with just over a minute remaining.

"Obviously for our country this is a great victory," said Lebanon's American coach Paul Coughter. "At this time there is a black cloud over Lebanon and this is a ray of sunshine."

El Khatib, who led Lebanon with 35 points, then made it 78-72 with a pair of freebies and hit two more at the buzzer to give Lebanon a 10-point margin.

Lebanon lost all five games and finished in last place at the 2002 world championships.

Venezuela led 57-56 after the third quarter. Any chance it had for a comeback was spoiled when Oscar Torres' errant pass went out of bounds with Lebanon leading 77-72.

El Khatib is one of the Middle East's best players. Two years ago, he unsuccessfully tried to get a release from his club team so he could play with the Los Angeles Clippers.

Lebanon, 26th in the Fiba rankings, is missing center Paul Khoury, who is stranded in Idaho with visa problems.

Vogel had nothing but praise for El Khatib.

"Fadi came out on fire and started the spark in the third quarter," said Vogel. "That's what he does, he's our leader, our captain." *AP*

Akognon shoots Nigeria past Serbia-Montenegro

SENDAI, JAPAN—IME UDOKA SCORED 18 points and guard Josh Akognon hit a key 3-pointer late in the fourth quarter Saturday as Nigeria upset Serbia and Montenegro, 82-75, at the basketball world championship.

Akognon gave Nigeria a 74-66 lead with three minutes left and the Africans held on for the win over the tournament's defending champion.

"We stuck to our game plan," said Udoka. "We knew we were the quicker team. They were bigger but we got the job done."

Serbia-Montenegro, which won the world title in 2002 at Indianapolis while competing as Yugoslavia, pulled to within four points in the final minute, but free throws by Gabe Muoneke and Ebi Ere ensured the win for Nigeria.

Udoka, who played for the New York Knicks last season, hit a 3-pointer in the final seconds of the third period to give Nigeria a 59-56 lead heading into the last 10 minutes.

Serbia-Montenegro didn't qualify for this tournament, but made it to the worlds as a wild-card. Many of the nation's top NBA players, like Nenad Krstic of the New Jersey Nets and Aleksandar Pavlovic of the Cleveland Cavaliers, didn't play for Dragan Sakota's team.

"Defense was the main ingredient," said Nigeria's American coach Sam Vincent. "We kept a big, strong team under 80 points."

Igor Rakocevic, who played a year in the NBA for the Minnesota Timberwolves, led Serbia-Montenegro with 20 points and was the only player to score in double digits for the Europeans.

Nigeria, which led 25-19 at the break, qualified by finishing third in the FIBA Africa Championship. *AP*

Hingis thwarts powerful rival, reaches semifinals

MONTREAL—MARTINA HINGIS HELD OFF the power shots of fourth-seeded Svetlana Kuznetsova for a 7-6 (4), 6-3 victory Friday in the quarterfinals of the Rogers Cup.

Hingis, the former No. 1 in the world and seventh seed, advanced to a semifinal on Saturday against 19-year-old Russian Anna Chakvetadze, a 7-6 (3), 7-5 winner over Shahar Peer of Israel.

Dinara Safina, the ninth seed from Russia, and 13th-seeded Ana Ivanovic of Serbia will meet in the other semifinal.

The 25-year-old Hingis was the dominant player on the WTA tour in the late 1990s, taking three of the four grand slam tournaments in 1997. She left the tour after the 2002 campaign with chronic foot problems.

She won 40 WTA tournaments, including the 1999 and 2000 Rogers Cups. She returned to the Tour this season and has climbed to No. 12 in the rankings.

Hingis should move higher after a rousing win over No. 7 Kuznetsova before a sellout crowd at 11,437-seat Uniprix Stadium.

"Winning the first set was the key," she said. "I gained the momentum.

"But I'm just so happy to be back in the semifinals again."

Each player had three service breaks in the opening set, with Hingis using clever drop shots and rushes to the net to offset Kuznetsova's powerful groundstrokes.

"I knew this was a top-10 match, so it feels great making it on my own," Hingis said. "It was my secret goal to make it. I was hoping for it so I would get better seeding in the US Open."

Hingis broke service to start the second set and held on with the help of some surprising mistakes from Kuznetsova, who surrendered her serve without winning a point in the final game of the match.

MARTINA Hingis celebrates her quarterfinal win over Svetlana Kuznetsova at the Rogers Cup tennis tournament in Montreal. REUTERS

"I don't want to blame anybody and make excuses that I lost because of the lights, but you could see how many balls I missed just because I couldn't see them," said Kuznetsova, the 2004 US Open champ. "It was so frustrating.

"It's completely different at night. She played all her matches at night so I think it was a huge advantage to her."

The match featured the top two remaining seeds in a tournament that lost most of its top stars to withdrawals and injuries.

Safina defeated Nicole Pratt, 6-1, 6-0. *AP*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B 1

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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

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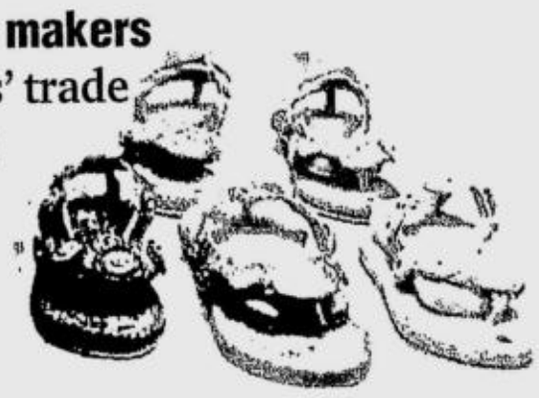


Ancient looms weave modern haute couture /B3

ANVAYA COVE
An AYALA Leisure Community

AyalaLandPREMIER

I didn't get to keep the starfish.. I didn't keep the sea cucumber either.

But I'm keeping the badge the marine ranger gave me!

Welcome to Anvaya Cove Beach & Nature Club – only 20 minutes away from the Subic Bay Freeport. Here, friendly Marine Rangers introduce kids (and adults too) to the most fascinating creatures in their seaside habitat.

Anvaya Cove is a seaside leisure community developed by Ayala Land Premier in Morong, Bataan. Stake your claim to paradise by owning a membership share. Build your vacation home amidst stunning sea views or verdant forests. Or perhaps invest in one of Anvaya's luxury villas with its own private pool.

Family time.
Endless summers.

The preferences of various personality types have been factored into the subdivision plans of Anvaya Cove

The preferences of various personality types have been factored into the subdivision plans of Anvaya Cove, the first leisure development of Ayala Land Premier, according to Manny Illana, project architect.

The 320-hectare Anvaya Cove is a two-hour drive away from Metro Manila, located in Morong, Bataan and adjacent to the Subic Bay Freeport. This resort-community also has lots which cater to a variety of individuals' needs and tastes.

Adventurous and sporty individuals as well as box-seat aficionados may be attracted to the Cliffside, the first of two neighborhoods in Anvaya Cove which provides a ringside view of the sea and future activities such as sailing, jet-skiing and the like. With around 800 mature mango and narra trees, most of the Cliffside lots ranging from 500 to 1,600 sqm. were sold out quickly.

Individuals who seek serenity and enjoy introspection will find solace at the Mango Grove. As its name implies, the 30-ha. neighborhood has a multitude of mature mango trees and most of the lots here have views of the mountain. In one special knoll in the area, there is a cluster of shady mango trees with trunks that are two meters in circumference. The trees are estimated to be around a century old. Lot cuts here are smaller and range from 450 to 600 sqm.

Illana further notes that lots overlooking the beach

would be the natural choices for those that are outward looking. "They can see and be seen from these lots and it is very near to where the center is, where action and fun is" says Manny Illana, Anvaya Cove project architecture and planning manager. For the introverts, the parkside lots offer peace and quiet since it will be surrounded by plants and trees.

In addition to lots, Ayala Land is also offering 17 pre-constructed villas with premium finishes designed by LVLocsin Partners. Each is a short walk away from the beach and represents the perfect Asian tropical retreat. In a bid to redefine luxury living, residents of the villas have the option to avail of room service, housekeeping services as well as garden maintenance.

Aside from the personality type, other prospective Anvaya Cove lot buyers utilize feng shui principles in choosing their piece of land, taking into account the orientation of the lot and wind direction.

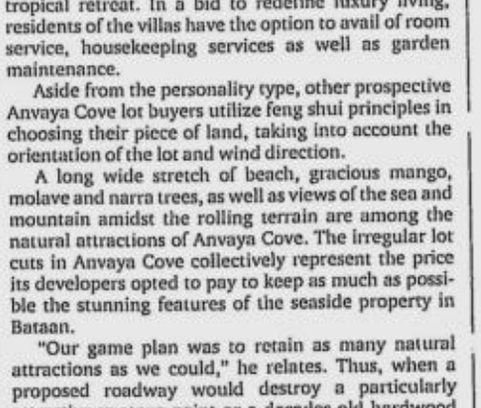
A long wide stretch of beach, gracious mango, molave and narra trees, as well as views of the sea and mountain amidst the rolling terrain are among the natural attractions of Anvaya Cove. The irregular lot cuts in Anvaya Cove collectively represent the price its developers opted to pay to keep as much as possible the stunning features of the seaside property in Bataan.

"Our game plan was to retain as many natural attractions as we could," he relates. Thus, when a proposed roadway would destroy a particularly attractive vantage point or a decades-old hardwood tree, planning efficiency would give way to accommodating the natural elements. The road would be rerouted for the sake of preserving the view or the established flora.

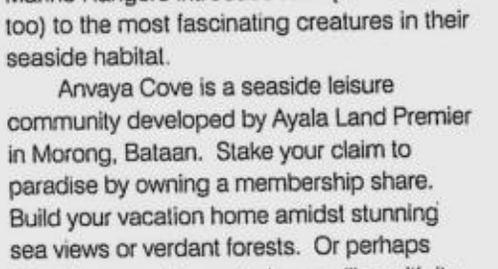
Illana relates that the development has been attracting residents of northern towns and cities of the National Capital Region. Most of the lot buyers are in their mid 30s, with families and kids.

All members of the family can find a suitable Anvaya Cove socialization and entertainment amenity. The teenagers can hang out at the Pawikan Beach Bar and Grill, the kids can play at the Seahorse Kiddie Village. Dad and his diving buddies can enjoy nature's best at the dive sites nearby, while mom can have a relaxing massage and beauty treatment at the Veda Spa.

More than just a place to relax, the Anvaya Cove is an ideal place for entrepreneurs to establish stronger relationship with potential business partners and clients.



For more information about Anvaya Cove, please call 728-7000 or visit its website at www.anvayacove.com or www.ayalalandpremier.com



ANVAYA COVE
Seaside Leisure Community

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For purchase inquiries on villas, lots, and club shares
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e-mail anvayacove@ayalaland.com.ph
or visit www.anvayacove.com

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Former butcher boy finds selling in his blood

Gives up life in Canada to go back to trading in the Philippines

By Romulo O. Ponte
Inquirer Southern Luzon

WHENEVER EMployees of the 2.7-hectare Montevista Hot Spring and Conference Resort (MHCR) in the City of Calamba greet you "Good Morning!" at night, don't be surprised.

They have made "Good Morning!" a 24-hour greeting.

"The sun does not set in Monte Vista," says owner Benedicto de la Luna, fondly called Benny.

Sunrise, as opposed to sunset, brings hope, optimism and new life, Benny explains. "So that our outlook is always positive."

Receptionists, life guards, security guards and other personnel up to the top management know this by heart. It is "taboo" to greet guests "Good afternoon" or "Good evening" in this resort, about 60 kilometers south of Metro Manila.

Aside from Montevista, Benny has expanded his resort business by buying the nearby 4-hectare Makiling Highlands Resort and the 17-ha Montevista Beach Resort in Sariaya, Quezon.

His family manages the entire businesses. His three children help in the management. His son, Arnold, manages the Max's Restaurant; daughter Karen helps in the operations and Gail takes the sales and marketing tasks.

His total assets in these businesses are more than P1.1 billion.

Recently, Benny bought a Max's Restaurant franchise and built an outlet in the Monte Vista premises.

Meat vendor

Born to parent engaged in small-time selling of pork in Mindoro, Benny, eldest of 10 children, would carry meat on foot around the town at the break of dawn to sell.

He was just a high school kid then but had already mastered the technique of buying and butchering a pig, cutting and selling its meat.

Alone, usually on Saturdays, he would go to remote farms, looking for pigs to butcher and be ready the next day for his customers.

By mere looking at the pig, Benny was 99 percent accurate of its weight and hence, committed no mistake in paying the exact price of the livestock.

"Before paying the owner, I had to examine the tongue of the pig to ensure it was free from disease," Benny says.

By dawn on Sundays, the pork meat was prepared for selling.

"I was an expert in buying, butchering and slicing meat. At 5 a.m., I was already walking on foot across the streets carrying about 60 to 100 kg of pork to be sold and delivered to both pre-contacted or would-be customers. By 6 a.m., I would be perspiring profusely by then, while my meat would be about 80-85 percent sold out," Benny recalls.

The pants that he wore almost daily was his khaki uniform in the Philippine Military Training.

Seminarian

In high school, Benny's parents, who were not churchgoers, ironically sent him to a seminary run by the missionaries of the Society of the Divine Word.

In the seminary, his life was not that happy. For one, his parents were too poor to visit him regularly.

During visiting days, he envied his fellow seminarians enjoy their parents' visits and the food they brought for their sons.

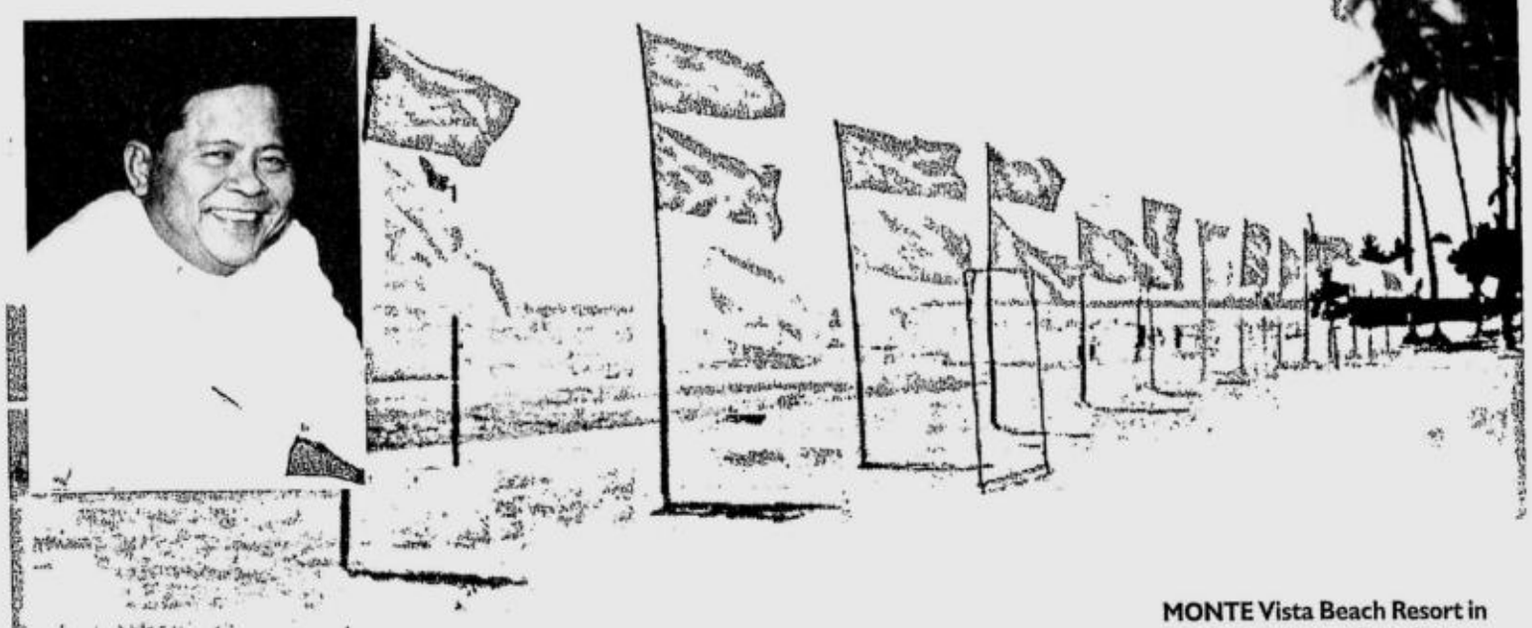
He quit the seminary after a year and went to Tayuman in Manila and worked for one year as janitor of the Catholic Trade Center owned by the SVDs.

He went back home and struggled to finish high school.

Fortunately, his elderly uncles and aunts, seeing good potential in this intelligent kid, joined resources to send the boy to college at the University of Santo Tomas to take up Nursing.

Life as a poor college student depending on the support of relatives was not easy.

There were days inside the classroom when he experienced stomach pains due to hunger. He shied away from classmates who were rich to avoid embarrassment.



MONTE Vista Beach Resort in Sariaya, Quezon; (inset) owner Benedicto de Luna

After four long agonizing years in college, the young kid graduated on June 12, 1968.

Migrant

In 1969, Benny migrated to Canada and worked in a hospital. But each time he saw vendors of cookware passing along hospital premises, his earlier business experience as a meat vendor in Mindoro rekindled in him.

The desire became stronger, prompting him to try vending cookwares as a sideline.

Earning fast this way, Benny decided to resign from the hospital after one year.

After five years, he started to compete in the cookware business in Canada.

In 1975, he established his own cookware business, Philkraft, which eventually expanded worldwide.

In 1982, he put up the Philkraft cookware business branch in the Philippines, which evolved into what is now called Philkraft Realty and Development Corp. of the Philippines.

It developed rapidly throughout the country and in 1990, the company acquired the MHCR.

He bought MHCR to create a venue for meetings, seminars, outings, conventions and other activities for his employees in Philkraft instead of renting venues, places for them, which could cost the company millions of pesos a year.

But owing to the influx of tourists coming to hot spring resorts on weekends, holidays and vacations, he realized soon enough that MHCR was not just useful for his employees but also a good business enterprise.

During peak season, MHCR accommodates about 1,500 anytime during summer in the morning, and another 1,500 during night time, so about 3,000 customers are accommodated for the whole day.

"It is not so expensive relaxation or family outing because we allow customers to bring their own provisions and the cottages are free," he says.

With P100 or so one can already avail of the amenities inside the resort, like the various spacious hot spring swimming pools of different depths that range from two feet to five feet, the slides with various heights, basketball, volleyball and indoor games.

Spring resorts

The MHCR and the Makiling Heights are among about 1,000 hot spring resorts that exist in Barangay Pansol, Calamba City and nearby Los Baños town in Laguna.

The peak days and seasons when customers flock in droves in these resort destinations are during summer, holidays and weekends which starts Friday afternoon until Sunday evening.

But most of these resorts are available to customers 24 hours daily.

The MHCR, the nearby Makiling Heights and the Monte Vista Beach Resort in Sariaya offer big discounts to friends in the church—like bishops, priests, nuns and lay people doing missions in dioceses or parishes.

Regular customers also avail of discounts ranging from 50 percent or less.

When asked why the management is quite generous to the religious sector, Benny did not mention he was a former seminarian.

Instead, he says, he believes these people he has given favor would in turn be his "advertisers" who will encourage their friends and relatives to come to Montevista.

And he is right. MHCR and his other resorts are most often the host of various group outings, conferences and meetings of corporations and government institutions.

MHCR served as the host quarter for the RP-US Balikatan exercises in Southern Tagalog for one month last year.

"Those who stayed with us are soldiers who are doctors, electricians, engineers, nurses and dentists.

Christian

Benny finds pleasure in helping the Church by supporting its construction projects and other needs—not only in Pansol, Calamba City but also in Makati City, in his native place in Mindoro and elsewhere.

He also sees to it that his workers in all his establishments would not go hungry.

He gives them good salaries, bonuses or gifts during Christmas holidays.

He also provides his workers with regular spiritual, moral and physical enrichments as they begin and progress in their day-to-day tasks.

Benny says he is among the big taxpayers in the province as he pays about P1 million for the mayor's permit of the Max's Restaurant alone. He pays millions more to the government for his other investments.

Footwear makers say 'tsinelas' trade 'kicking'

By Romulo Ponte
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LILIW, LAGUna—Two of the pioneering names in the footwear industry here have kept their enterprises alive, mainly because these continue to be lucrative.

Manufacturer Socialite Ingrid and retailer Chit's Footwear, bywords in the industry because of their steady supply of slippers for customers here and abroad, claim their products continue to enjoy patronage.

Emma Coroza Camello, the moving spirit behind Socialite, says the footwear business here is thriving.

In fact, her company shares the market with more than 100 other manufacturers of slippers of various sizes, styles, modes, shapes and colors in this town.

These include pioneering slipper producer Badong Footwear, owned by Salvador Monteiro.

There are six manufacturers who also maintain 47 footwear retail stores in Liliw.

Among these retailers are Chit's Footwear, run by sisters Carmencita Brosas Alimario and Cecille Brosas Nacionales.

Trendy

Emma, 53, a graduate of the Centro Escolar University (CEU), initially had no inkling she would be involved in the "tsinelas" trade started by her parents sometime in 1953.

Her parents owned a shoe business here which was named after her—Emma's Footwear.

A commerce graduate major in accounting, she became an accounting clerk at Biochem Pharmaceutical. She then worked at the Laguna Provincial Hospital.

Emma married Frankie Camello, 55, also a commerce graduate, whose parents also owned a shoe store named Socialite Footwear.

The couple eventually took the reins of their elderly parents' enterprises and renamed them as Socialite Ingrid Footwear after their only daughter Ingrid, 26, an Interior Design graduate.

They also have a son, Francis, 27, a graduate of Human Resource Management.

Located in the town's business hub, Socialite Ingrid is known for its trendy sandals, step-ins, clogs, slip-ons and slippers with prices ranging from P100 to P250.

Emma said her parents started the business in 1953 with P5,000 capital and a small space.

Today, they have a 4-story house, the ground floor of which is the store, while a separate building across the street houses the manufacturing area.

Emma, with help from Frankie, handles marketing by researching on the latest design for shoes or sandals or step-ins, both in the country and abroad, before producing these.

The finished product would be enhanced to cater to local tastes with appropriate colors and affordable selling prices, says Emma's daughter-in-law Myla, wife of Francis, who helps in the trade.

Once Emma approves designs, six to a dozen samples of the product are made for initial display for customers to order.

Once the product becomes a hit to customers, mass production of design proceeds, says Myla.

The finished product sells from P200 to P250 in Liliw and P380 and above in Manila.

Their Havana flip-flop, which uses abaca for material, costs P800 in Manila.

Occasionally, slipper products are offered at "3 for P100," and these sell like hotcakes to customers here and abroad.

TWO OF the oldest but prevailing footwear makers and retailers.
NIÑO ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Secret

Emma has honed her marketing skills after over 30 years of running the business, with Myla helping attract customers from among college friends in Manila.

"I persuade them to complement their products with the newest style of shoes or sandals we offer so they can earn also," Myla says.

She adds that their footwear products could also be seen displayed in various Metro Manila commercial establishments like the SM Mall of Asia, SM Megamall, Market-Market, Green Hills and the like.

Emma is acknowledged as one of the most successful manufacturers of slippers in Liliw and in Laguna.

She has received various awards because of this feat, the most recent of these was as outstanding alumna of CEU.

Her secret to success: "Watching the trends here and abroad, so what we sell here really showcase the latest designs."

She refers to magazines as a good source of ideas for unique patterns and extols the local craftsmen's natural artistry in executing the designs.

SAMPLES of native but first class footwear of various styles, shapes and colors displayed at the Socialite Ingrid Footwear Store.

Emma recalls her unforgettable experience when no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo visited her store during the First Tsinelas Festival in April 2001, which showcased the locality's world-class footwear products.

She vividly remembers how Arroyo admitted before the national and international media that "she wore tsinelas made in Liliw" during a sortie to a Metro Manila market.

Emma believes that Liliw's fashionable but affordable slippers could boost the local and the national economy in the long run.

Chit's Footwear

Like Emma, Carmencita, 50, and younger sister Cecille took over management of the original Chit's Footwear retail store that used to be run by their late parents.

The store serves as an outlet of footwear products manufactured by various large-scale and small-scale local producers in the municipality, like Pia's Footwear Maker, Eileen Footwear, Lachica Footwear, Nora's, Karen and Zaldy's Footwear.

Carmencita recalls that when they started in 1982, there were only a handful engaged in the footwear business, which catered to a select number of customers.

This was until a doctor, Floro Brosas, had patients from various Laguna towns coming in droves to see him because of his "miraculous" healing powers.

Patients from various Laguna towns flocked to the doctor's clinic that was just across Chit's Footwear Store at Gat Tayaw Street in Liliw's town center, says Carmencita.

She observed that about 200 patients came daily to visit the gifted healer.

"Even those who were already cured from their ailments would return, not to visit Dr. Brosas but to buy footwear, already available on a small-scale basis," she adds.

Before the physician died several years ago, the industry had already flourished with additional help from the government's massive promotion programs.

Growth

Carmencita and Cecille say selling footwear products is lucrative, with customers from both the domestic and foreign market.

They cite the foreign scholars studying at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños who come to the place to buy their products.

Employing from four to six sales employees, the store gets busy during peak seasons such as Holy Week, Christmas, patron feast and the Tsinelas Festival.

During weekdays, sales are slow and earnings are very limited—unlike during weekends.

From a small store space, they now have a two-story footwear building.

The sisters add that they have acquired another building and new vehicles and were able to build a new house.

Ancient looms weave modern haute couture

Narda's group finds tapestry patterns created by looms can also follow tailoring patterns

By Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—AMERICAN missionaries brought the Igorots their first loom in the early 20th century, hoping to show them "a better way" to produce garments.

Last weekend, Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Tower previewed the new line of fabrics and haute couture of iconic Igorot "ikat" weaver Leonarda Capuyan that boast of a breakthrough in the use of these old American looms.

Observing the traditional tapestry patterns which loom weavers often trace as they bind together ikat fibers into giant wall decor or couch covers, Narda's new designers Eros Goze and Dandilo Delima realize that the looms can also follow tailoring patterns.

The average clothes are made by cutting stretches of fabrics into sleeves and other dress patterns, which are stitched together by needle and thread, says Delima.

But weavers follow the same pattern on looms, he says.

The only stitching required for these handwoven dresses fixes sleeves to main jacket parts or gowns, says Goze, who once presided over a Baguio chapter of the Fashion Designers of the Philippines.

Narda first tried to break into the world fashion market two years ago via an ecological fiber show in Sarawak, Indonesia.

But she now hopes the new loom skills her company has stumbled into will reinvent the cottage industries of the Cordillera.

A loom is a wooden frame that holds thread tight and parallel to each other. The instrument was introduced by American missionaries and teachers in the Cordillera between 1908 and 1920.

The signature ikat designs of Narda's Handwoven Arts & Crafts, which formed part of the displays at Bloomingdale's in New York, are an ancient technique of tie-dyeing threads used for the even older art of weaving.

Weaving is the technique of threading together strands of yarn that are stretched by the loom or between two sticks braced against a weaver's back.

Aida Capuyan, Narda's 51-year-old cousin-in-law, piloted the loom experiments because of her background in tailoring. Narda's veteran in-house designer Albert Pilongo supervised the project.

"This is my first time to weave dress patterns. No weaver had done this because I had to follow the curving patterns of a real dress when we were all used to weaving place mats and wall hangings," she says in Filipino.

It took her two to three days to complete all the patterns for a dress. A wall-hanging, even the ones now hanging at Petronas Towers' Galeri Petronas, can take her a single day.

Delima says they have discovered one drawback in weaving a complete dress by hand. Sleeves or cuffs or even skirt lengths will have to be discarded if the weaver makes a major error while following a measured pattern, he says.

But Narda has approved her team's suggestions to test the new loom skill on her brand of ikat fiber, to determine whether lighter, more mainstream garments can be produced from these equipment.

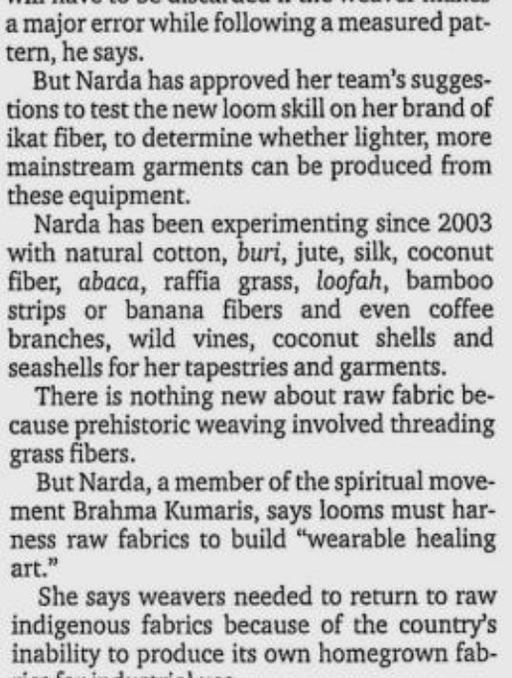
Narda has been experimenting since 2003 with natural cotton, *buri*, jute, silk, coconut fiber, *abaca*, raffia grass, *loofah*, bamboo strips or banana fibers and even coffee branches, wild vines, coconut shells and seashells for her tapestries and garments.

There is nothing new about raw fabric because prehistoric weaving involved threading grass fibers.

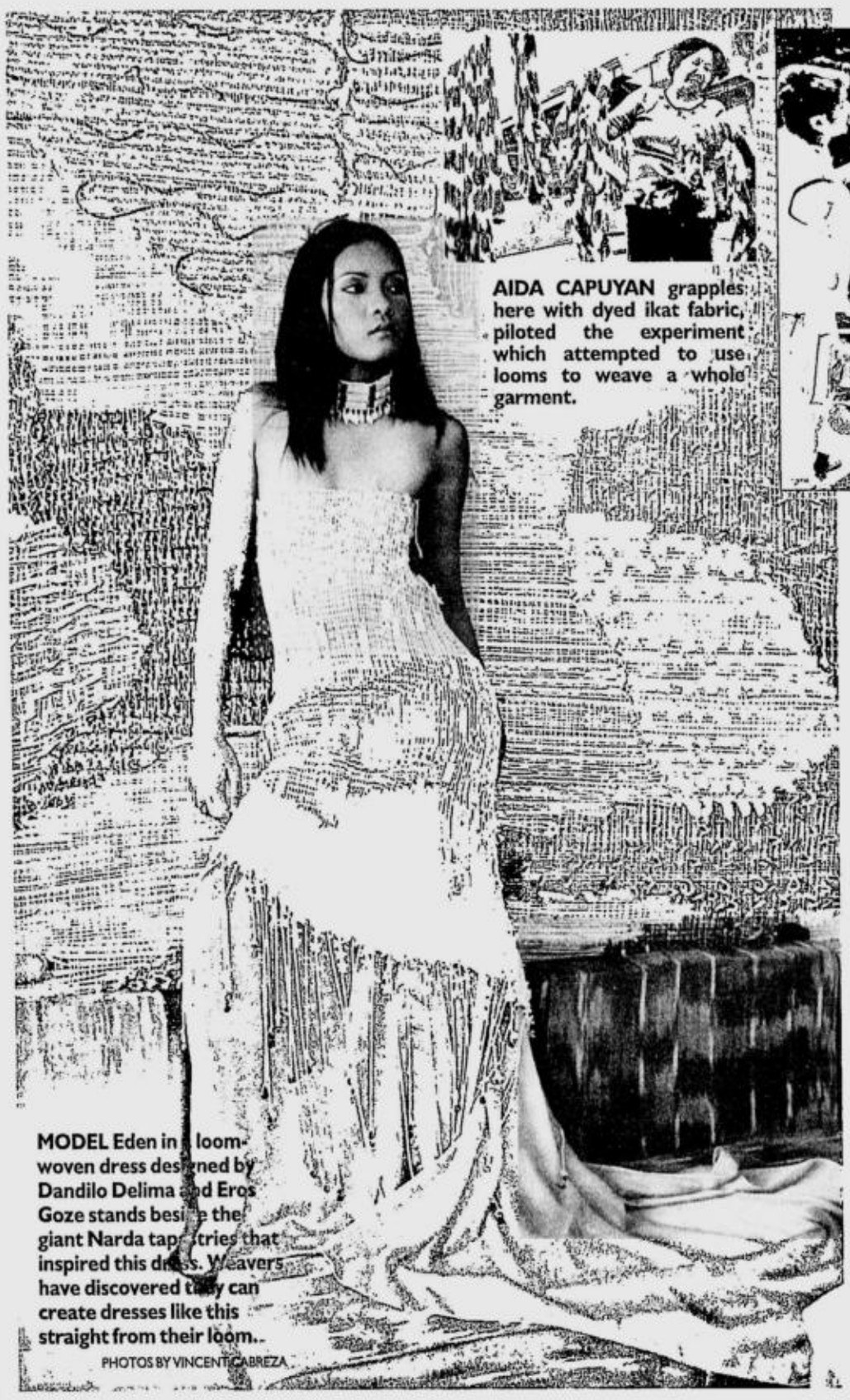
But Narda, a member of the spiritual movement Brahma Kumaris, says looms must harness raw fabrics to build "wearable healing art."

She says weavers needed to return to raw indigenous fabrics because of the country's inability to produce its own homegrown fabrics for industrial use.

Capuyan had partnered with Italian investors in the Philippine cotton project of Phil Italia, but she dropped from the project due to its overwhelming demand for capital infusion.



DARNA DESIGNS. The Narda brand of Sagada-born weaver Leonarda Capuyan is launching an evolution of an old technology.



AIDA CAPUYAN grapples here with dyed ikat fabric, piloted the experiment which attempted to use looms to weave a whole garment.

DRESS UP. Designer Eros Goze fits a new loom woven party jacket on model Eden. The jacket, woven out of abaca, banana and jute ruffa strips and cotton will be showcased in Malaysia this weekend.

MODEL Eden in a loom-woven dress designed by Dandilo Delima and Eros Goze stands beside the giant Narda tapestries that inspired this dress. Weavers have discovered they can create dresses like this straight from their loom.

PHOTOS BY VINCENT CABREZA

"I went into fiber manufacturing because cotton threads are getting very expensive. Thread manufacturers are going to China instead and some of the cotton threads have been blended with polyester which destroys our dyeing patterns," she says.

Applying the loom technology to modern dress-making is a boon for her trade, she said; because it increases the value of products all Filipino weavers struggle to sell in an increasingly shrinking market.

Almost all handwoven products vie for store space in Europe and America, she says, when there is an untapped demand from growing economies in Asia like China.

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ABULUG
LOT 1 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,625.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 54.00 sqm.
L2857 Brgy Rd Calog Sur
Min Bid Price: 74,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 3,333 sqm.
L2854-D Prov'L Rd. Calog Sur
Min Bid Price: 138,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 2,936.00 sqm.
Lot 3047-O Interior Lot W/ No Access Pinili
Min Bid Price: 39,000.00

ALLACAPAN
LOT 4 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,082.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 278.00 sqm.
L21-B Mun Rd Centro East
Min Bid Price: 1,557,000.00

APARRI
LOT 5 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,015.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 58.00 sqm.
Lot No. 6110-A Landlocked,Binalan
Min Bid Price: 39,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 186.00 sqm.
Lot No. 701-P-7-C-3 Nat'L Rd. Macanaya District
Min Bid Price: 2,678,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 516.65 sqm.
Floor Area: 72.00 sqm.
Lot 806-A-3 Subd. Rd. Pf-Subd., Macanaya Dist.
Min Bid Price: 846,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 96.00 sqm.
Lot 804-E Nat'L Rd Tallungan Macanaya District
Min Bid Price: 2,000,000.00

BALLESTEROS
LOT 9 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,850.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 86.00 sqm.
Lot 4131 Brgy. Rd. Ammubuan
Min Bid Price: 330,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 306.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 106.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1495-B Ogalino St., Cabaluan East
Min Bid Price: 439,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 2,800.00 sqm.
Lot No. 728 Arcena St., Cabaritan East
Min Bid Price: 105,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 6,122.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1151 Landlocked Cabaritan West
Min Bid Price: 80,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 246.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 110.00 sqm.
Lot 825 Prov'L Rd. Cabaritan West
Min Bid Price: 43,000.00

LOT 14 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 904.00 sqm.
Lot 864 Landlocked Cabaritan West
Min Bid Price: 19,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 8,170.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 73.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1486 Brgy. Rd. Cabuluan East
Min Bid Price: 258,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,179.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 246.00 sqm.
Lot 8046 Cor.Rizal, Concepcion & Luna Sts, Centro East
Min Bid Price: 1,400,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 1,427.00 sqm.
Lot 6204-I Nat'L Rd Fugu
Min Bid Price: 107,250.00

LOT 18 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,620.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 95.00 sqm.
Lot No. 4982-C Prov'L Rd. Mabuttal
Min Bid Price: 494,000.00

LOT 19 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 1,414.00 sqm.
Lot 6380 Brgy Rd Mabuttal
Min Bid Price: 46,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 9,404.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 333.00 sqm.
Lot # 4665 Bonifacio Cortez St., Poblacion
Min Bid Price: 387,000.00

LOT 21 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,124.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 276.00 sqm.
Lot No. 3218 Prov'L Rd. Sta. Cruz
Min Bid Price: 909,000.00

LOT 22 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,273.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 242.00 sqm.
Lot No. 4196-C Brgy. Rd Access Rd. Sta Cruz
Min Bid Price: 1,049,000.00

LOT 23 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 3,131.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 99.00 sqm.
L3121 Landlocked Sta.Cruz
Min Bid Price: 90,000.00

LOT 24 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,174.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 236.00 sqm.
Lot 881 Prov'L Rd Cabaritan West
Min Bid Price: 692,000.00

CAMALANIUGAN
LOT 25 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 600.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 314.00 sqm.
Lot # 2446-A Nat'L Rd Dacal Lafugu
Min Bid Price: 2,119,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 626.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 63.00 sqm.
Lot 10006 Interior Lot W/ Rd Right Of Way Catotoran Norte
Min Bid Price: 281,000.00

GATTARAN
LOT 27 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 3,142.00 sqm.
Lot 715-B Nat'L Rd Agulgulcan
Min Bid Price: 176,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 4,347.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 195.00 sqm.
Lot 174-B Land Locked Cullit
Min Bid Price: 240,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,114.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 78.00 sqm.
Lot 937-A-2 Land Locked Cullit
Min Bid Price: 47,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 720.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 91.00 sqm.
Lot 1309-A Nat'L Rd Guising
Min Bid Price: 95,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 4,360.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 110.00 sqm.
Lot 1399-B Nat'L Rd. Lapogan
Min Bid Price: 408,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 4,179.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 203.00 sqm.
Lot 865-B Prov'L Rd Brgy Rd Newagac
Min Bid Price: 338,000.00

LAL-LO
LOT 33 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,044.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 81.00 sqm.
Lot 3529 Brgy Rd Catayauan
Min Bid Price: 99,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 151.00 sqm.
Lot B-1-A Nat'L Rd Lalafugan
Min Bid Price: 883,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,810.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 111.00 sqm.
Lot E-2 Nat'L Rd Lalafugan,
Min Bid Price: 598,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 172.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 60.00 sqm.
Lot No. 3115-A Nat'L Rd. Sta. Maria
Min Bid Price: 179,000.00

LASAM
LOT 37 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 538.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 202.00 sqm.
Lot 3 Nat'L Rd Centro 1
Min Bid Price: 1,164,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,013.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 221.00 sqm.
Lot E-4 Ignacio, Jurado
Min Bid Price: 1,100,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,500.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 168.00 sqm.
Lot A-2-B Nat'L Rd Nabannagan East
Min Bid Price: 961,000.00

LOT 40 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,378.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 81.00 sqm.
L31-B Int. Lot W/ Rd Right Of Way Nabannagan East
Min Bid Price: 396,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 7,285.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 128.00 sqm.
Lot A-2-C Nat'L Rd. Nabannagan East
Min Bid Price: 513,000.00

LOT 42 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 1,435.00 sqm.
Lot E-3 Ignacio Jurado St.
Min Bid Price: 104,000.00

PIAT
LOT 43 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 3,084.00 sqm.
Lot 1504 Brgy Rd Aquib
Min Bid Price: 100,000.00

LOT 44 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 1,605.00 sqm.
Lot 1393 Land Locked Maguilling
Min Bid Price: 21,000.00

SANCHEZ MIRA
LOT 45 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 10,534.00 sqm.
L3851 Brgy Rd Daqueray
Min Bid Price: 169,000.00

LOT 46 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 553.00 sqm.
Lot 1090 Brgy Rd Nammuac
Min Bid Price: 47,000.00

SOLANA
LOT 47 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 7,470.00 sqm.
Lot 1324 Brgy Rd Basi
Min Bid Price: 288,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 1,884.00 sqm.
Lot No. 4040 Prov'L Rd Barrio Rd. Lanna
Min Bid Price: 85,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 530.00 sqm.
Lot 4051 Prov'L Rd Lanna
Min Bid Price: 24,000.00

LOT 50 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 42,643.00 sqm.
L8314-B Land Locked Lannig
Min Bid Price: 336,000.00

STA. MARCELA
LOT 51 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,455.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 104.00 sqm.
Lot 146 Brgy Rd Barucbuc
Min Bid Price: 236,000.00

STO. NIÑO
LOT 52 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 5,374.00 sqm.
Lot 4931 Barrio Rd Balanl
Min Bid Price: 36,000.00

TABUK
LOT 53 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,500.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 83.00 sqm.
Lot 754-A-4 Nat'L Rd Nat'L Highway, Bulanao
Min Bid Price: 1,136,000.00

LOT 54 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,250.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 88.00 sqm.
Lot 2367 Brgy Rd Bulanao
Min Bid Price: 507,000.00

LOT 55 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 392.00 sqm.
L744-C Subd Rd Bulanao
Min Bid Price: 200,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 600.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 22.00 sqm.
Lot 569-A-14-A Prov'L Rd Laya West
Min Bid Price: 259,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,250.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 133.00 sqm.
Lot 247-A-4 Balakang St. Nasqueban
Min Bid Price: 431,000.00

LOT 58 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 462.50 sqm.
Floor Area: 110.00 sqm.
Lot 184-F-2 Rd Right Of Way Nasqueban
Min Bid Price: 444,000.00

LOT 59 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 639.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 127.00 sqm.
Lot1772-B Roxas Mayengao St., Poblacion
Min Bid Price: 1,264,000.00

LOT 60 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 600.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 175.00 sqm.
Lot 19-F Prov'L Rd Laya East
Min Bid Price: 594,000.00

TUAO
LOT 61 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 5,031.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1386 Brgy. Rd., Dagupan
Min Bid Price: 69,000.00

LOT 62 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 128,371.00 sqm.
Lot H-186574 Dagupan
Min Bid Price: 100,000.00

LOT 63 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 1,413.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1518-A Brgy. Rd. Fugu
Min Bid Price: 21,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 1,413.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1518-B Brgy. Rd. Fugu
Min Bid Price: 21,000.00

LOT 65 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 1,414.00 sqm.
Lot 1518-D Brgy Rd Fugu
Min Bid Price: 28,000.00

LOT 66 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 2,338.00 sqm.
Lot No. 3736 Landlocked Lallayug
Min Bid Price: 12,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 7,424.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 82.00 sqm.
Lot 1009 Brgy Rd Palca(Angang)
Min Bid Price: 99,000.00

LOT 68 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 7,274.00 sqm.
Lot 1031 Barrio Rd Palca
Min Bid Price: 100,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 6,757.00 sqm.
Lot 965 Barrio Rd Palca
Min Bid Price: 154,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 10,000.00 sqm.
Lot 1-A Brgy. Rd. Villa Laida
Min Bid Price: 126,000.00

TUGUEGARAO
LOT 71 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 2,770.00 sqm.
Lot 7529 Linao West
Min Bid Price: 13,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 393.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 128.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1269-E, 12-B Luna St., Extn., Ugac Sur
Min Bid Price: 568,000.00

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Chairman, Housing & Urban Development Coordinating Council

1 9 9 1

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Aetropolis / Port City	Arch. Felino A. Palafox, Jr. Managing Partner, Palafox Associates
Smart City: E-tropolis	Arch. Abelardo M. Tolentino, Jr. President, RMJM Philippines
Broadbanding the Future	Mr. Napoleon L. Nazareno President, SMART Communications
Waterfront: Windows of Opportunity	Arch. Brian John P. Mangio Partner, NS Mangio & Associates
What Makes A Community Great?	Arch. Nestor S. Mangio President, Central Country Estate
Tax Credit Trend	Atty. Nelson M. Aspe Director, Region VIII, BIR
Pag-IBIG Success Stories	Atty. Romero F.S. Quimbo President, Pag-IBIG Fund
Capitalizing on Baby Boomers	Gen. Edgar B. Aglipay (ret) Chairman, Phil. Leisure & Retirement
Military Housing (Mixed)	Capt. Rafaelito R. Sacdalan (PN) Chief, AFP Real Estate Office
Real Estate Formal Education	Dr. Carlito S. Puno Chairman, CHED
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IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Uncle Sam wants you** but no liquid or gel onboard, please /D2

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'As most of you know, I was born to a poor family and only completed high school. Unable to attend college, I only had one dream in my life—to finish school and get my degree'

SOCORRO Cancio-Ramos is welcomed by Ateneo de Manila University President Bienvenido Nebres, SJ (above), and conferred as Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa* (top, right).

PHOTOS BY AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Nothing is impossible to the deserving

ON A RECENT Tuesday afternoon, everybody's *Nanay* Coring attended a special academic convocation at the Ateneo de Manila University in Loyola Heights, QC.

The woman who founded the National Book Store and shepherded it through times of war and peace into a business with 70 branches, set aside her usual plain attire and came appropriately dressed for the occasion.

No, she was not there for the graduation of her twins Ben and Fred nor of her daughter Cecile, all of which rites happened many years ago. And she wasn't there either for the commencement exercises for any of her nine grandchildren or seven great grandchildren.

This time *Nanay* Coring herself was the honoree. In the presence of her children and their own growing families, her employees and her friends, the Ateneo conferred the Doctor of Humanities honorary degree upon Socorro Cancio-Ramos in this year's Traditional University Awards rites.

The award is given "in recognition of her outstanding contribution to building literacy in a society that still has to wean itself from the oral tradition; her immense courage, firm resolve and unwavering belief in the need for thrift, hard work and honesty in pursuing any enterprise, thus living out an ideal business ethos; and her total commitment to helping make education affordable, especially to those who have little in life."

The following is *Nanay* Coring's acceptance speech. An honest disclosure of a humble past and a simple declaration of gratitude for an answered prayer, it is a response that can only come from a woman who has lived her life according to the virtues of frugality, integrity and industry.

Fr. Daniel Patrick Huang, Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, Board of Trustees, fellow awardees, members of the academe, family and friends, good afternoon.

There are no words to adequately express my gratitude, my family's gratitude and my National Book Store family's gratitude.

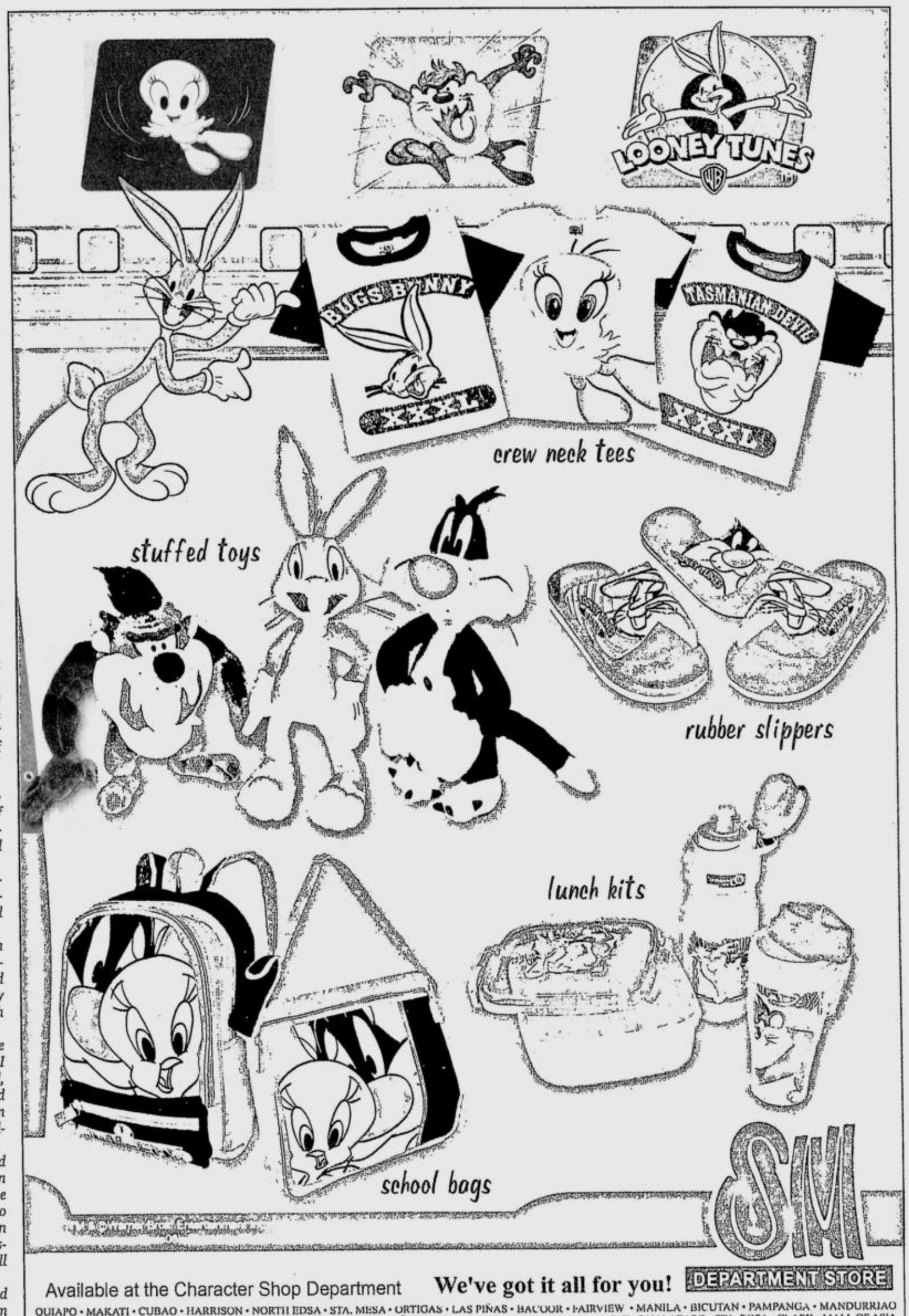
As most of you know, I was born to a poor family and only completed high school. Unable to attend college, I only had one dream in my life—an impossible dream to finish school and get my degree.

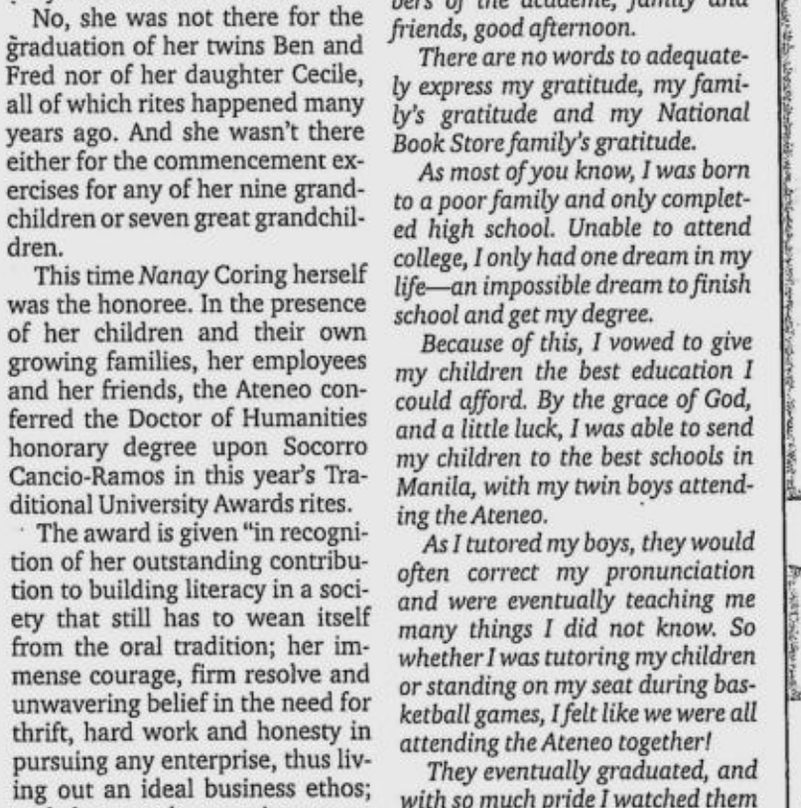
Because of this, I vowed to give my children the best education I could afford. By the grace of God, and a little luck, I was able to send my children to the best schools in Manila, with my twin boys attending the Ateneo.

As I tutored my boys, they would often correct my pronunciation and were eventually teaching me many things I did not know. So whether I was tutoring my children or standing on my seat during basketball games, I felt like we were all attending the Ateneo together!

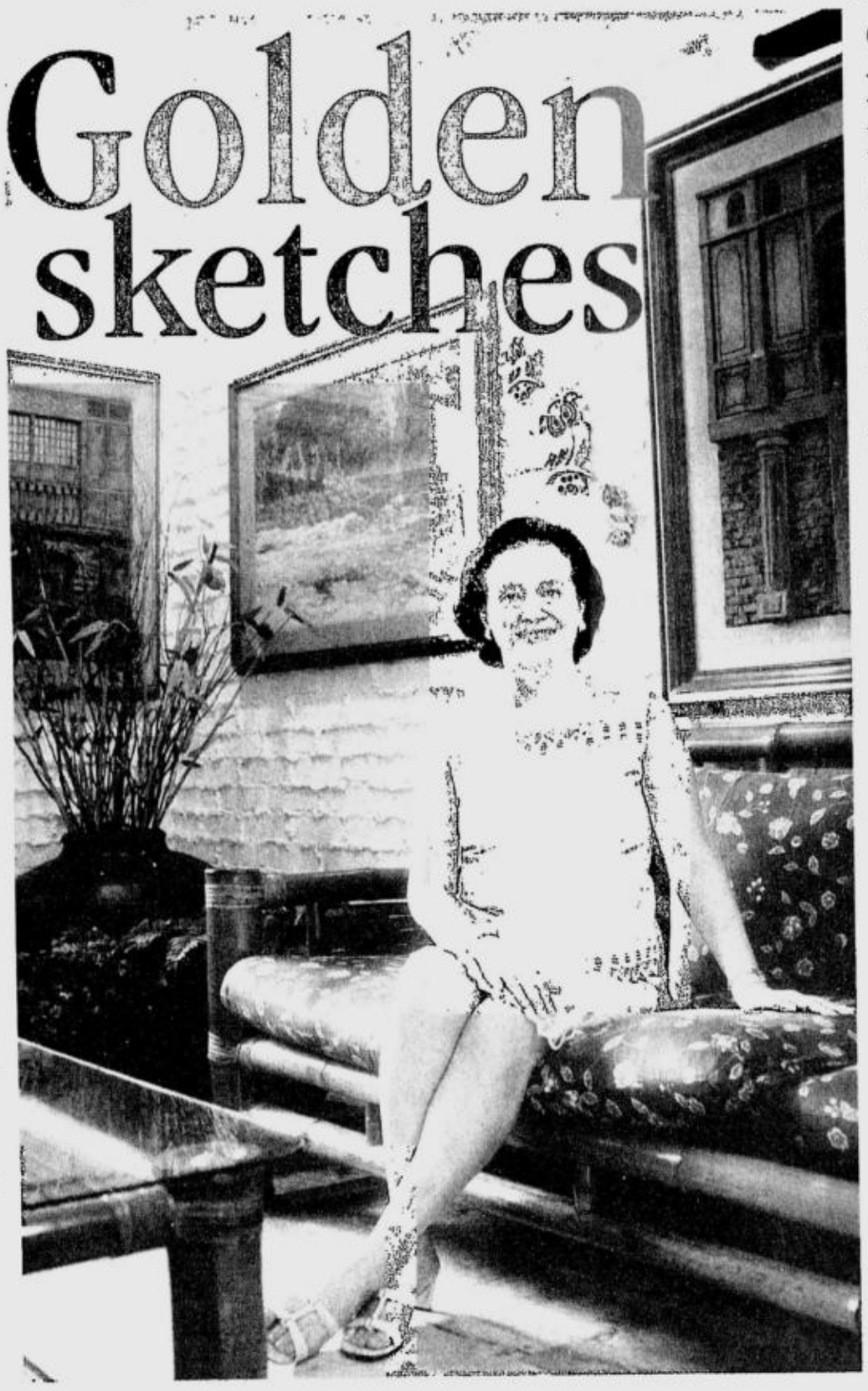
They eventually graduated, and with so much pride I watched them

AN IMPOSSIBLE/ C3





Golden sketches



Chic del Rosario Francisco's Golden Hands Fashion and Arts School counts noted designer Ivarluski Aseron among its alumni

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

FROM HOW SHE WAS HUNCHED OVER her sketchbook, outlining in earnest the female form on the grids of the white sheet in front of her, it was hard to imagine that Migs Sanjorjo was once the disinterested student she said she was the year before.

The 18-year-old was studying nursing, dreaming like most of her generation, to one day leave home in pursuit of a high-paying job abroad. But Sanjorjo's heart, she soon realized, was elsewhere. To her, college was a tortuous process that no promise of future dollars earned could make her stay on. After only a year, she quit college and enrolled in a fashion-and-arts school on Taft Avenue in June. Her parents gave in without much protest.

"They said I might as well do something that I liked than waste money," Sanjorjo says with a glint in her eyes. "I'm enjoying... I want to become a fashion designer. After this [six-month course], I'll enroll in sewing."

Sanjorjo's classmate, Sharlene Chan, 30, finished international studies at De La Salle University, and is involved in her family's paper business. But once a week for months now, Chan has been attending advanced classes in fashion design.

"I didn't realize I would like it this much," she says. Lately she has started making clothes for her friends.

Familiar stories

In her 25 years of running Golden Hands Fashion and Arts School, Eloisa "Chic" del Rosario Francisco is only too familiar with stories like Sanjorjo's and Chan's. The school founder and directress has come across diverse tales of how her students wound up in her school, and she relishes retelling them.

Francisco says she once had a batch of home-economics teachers enrolled in her school, sent there by the administration of an exclusive girls' school in San Juan. Once, there was also a bunch of nuns who took up classes. Then there were owners of big manufacturing firms and ready-to-wear brands.

At the moment she has students with their own dress shops, boutiques or subcontractors for various clothing brands. And, how can she forget, Ivarluski Aseron is an alumnus of her school. Aseron is, of course, one of Manila's noted young designers, who says Golden Hands is a "good place to learn the basics."

Francisco may now sound pleased with how far her school has gone, but she's the first to admit the primary reason that led to its eventual founding had, in fact, not much to do with the desire to teach as much as a personal fancy for beautiful clothes.

Growing up with three sisters in the '60s, all of whom loved to dress up, she recalled their frequent trips to seamstresses racked up absurd bills that their mother suggested they find a cheaper alternative. But then the sisters were fussy.

"We wouldn't be satisfied with the quality that the clothes ended up in the back of our closets," she says. An aunt suggested that Francisco open up her own dress shop. The idea so appealed to the young woman that she vowed when she was ready, she would do exactly that.

She studied at the Madonna School of Fashion after graduating with a communication arts degree from Maryknoll [now Miriam] College. She soon opened her dress shop in a gated Makati village, with clients that included expats' wives. However, she decided to close shop after nine years to establish Golden Hands.

Francisco had found her vocation.

Books and testimonials

Since then, the woman has authored five books on pattern-making, sewing and fashion design, all of which, she proudly said, are selling well locally (at National Book Store) and abroad (the books are sold on the Internet, at myayala.com). The books are used in her school's curriculum.

"I have students who enrolled after they got hold of my books," she says.

The books are easy-to-follow even for beginners, and it has e-mailed testimonials from readers from as far as Texas in the United States to Trinidad Island in the West Indies.

"I never expected the school to last this long," she shares. "I don't make money. But I feel I need to do this. Not everyone can afford to pay P80,000 each term," which she said is what formal fashion schools in Metro Manila charge.

Golden Hands, the school, is a modest affair, occupying two small rooms in a nondescript building on Taft Avenue (tel. 5232347, 5248424; visit goldenhandsschool.edu.ph; e-mail golden_ideas@yahoo.com). The school has five instructors; instruction is on a one-on-one basis. Courses take six weeks to a year, and students attend classes at hours convenient to them.

"Some vocational schools have fine prints," Francisco explains. "They say six months but they mean only 240 hours spread throughout the period. With us, you come in whenever you can, for as long as you like, until you finish the course within the allotted period." Unlike regular schools, Golden Hands accepts new students throughout the year.

DRAWING BOARD. Dennis Crisostomo (right), a Golden Hands alumnus, had worked in the Middle East for several years before he decided to come home last year. He now teaches fashion illustration in his old school.

CLASS ACT. Haizel Velasco, Migs Sanjorjo and Sharlene Chan in their fashion-design class

ARTS AND CRAFTS. The sewing class

BESTSELLERS. Francisco's five guidebooks to pattern-making and fashion design for hobbyists and beginners

DREAM WEAVERS. The school directress and her teaching staff with their students

Flexible schedules

For students like Chan, the setup is convenient. "I'm only able to leave work once a week. The flexible schedules suit me."

"I'm quite happy my daughter learned of this school," says Rose Balatbat, a new student. Balatbat is a nurse who's home from the US where she and her doctor-husband are based. "I was getting bored at home since all my kids are grownup. With my free time, I want to learn how to make things to decorate the house."

Golden Hands also teaches entrepreneurial sewing and design courses, drawing students like Aklan native Haizel Velasco, whose family is in the *piña* fabric business.

"Competition is tough," says Velasco, a former pharmacy student, "so you need to learn how you can keep up."

Francisco herself stresses the importance of learning how to make patterns, particularly to garment-factory workers displaced by the influx of cheap clothing from China.

"When they know pattern making, they can accept made-to-order services. They are assured of a livelihood," she explains.

These days, Francisco is thinking hard about the future of her school as none of her three children seem poised to take over when she retires.

"I don't know," she laughs dryly. "But right now I'm just happy I'm doing something worthwhile. My maternal grandmother instilled in us the importance of contributing to our country. That's my motivation, especially as I see that my students are going somewhere."

Email the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

Religion causes tension in 4-year relationship

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

'Our relationship is almost perfect except for one thing: we come from different faiths'

DEAR EMILY,

I have been reading your column and learned a lot from it. I pitied those who had been hurt and confused in their relationships, not knowing that I wouldn't be spared from this dilemma.

My girlfriend and I have been on for almost four years. Our relationship is almost perfect except for one thing: we come from different faiths.

At first, I tried to attend Mass with her but, lately, I've been feeling that I should attend my own religious worship. She constantly asks me to go to church with her and when I don't, she gets angry.

My heart tells me to stay in my faith. We've gone through many trials and overcome them, except this matter of religion. We love each other but I'm just confused about how we could settle this situation.

TRIX

I am the wrong person to ask about religion. I am brand-amnesiac when it comes to matters of faith. God is God is God is God, in whatever name, sound, form and language He is packaged.

You kept professing your love for each other, yet there is anger on her part and stubbornness on yours when she asks you to go to church with her.

Obviously, this thing you call love is very selective and you both have an unspoken rule about religion that silently screams "what is mine is mine and what is yours is yours!"

Why don't you have an honest conversation and lay down your rules of engagement—primarily how to accept your different religions? If this "only" thorn cannot be resolved, why don't you go separately to whichever house of worship your hearts desire?

Will it kill you both to be separated for a few hours in one day? Does your girlfriend feel that your love is diminished when you go to your own place of worship?

Faith is something that cannot be legislated or coerced. If you do get married, have a ceremony at both your churches.

You're already bickering about religion even before marriage. Can you imagine how this issue of faith will explode once the children start coming?

You may want to think and rethink hard before carrying your relationship further.

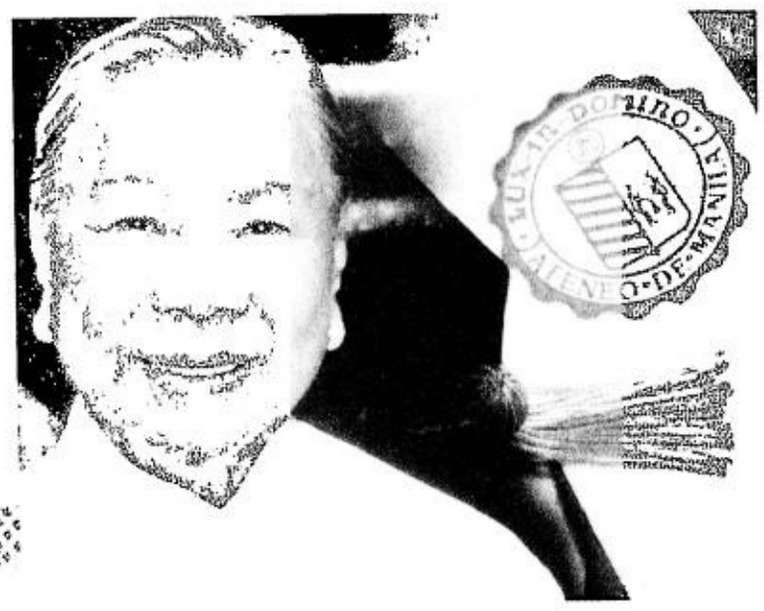
Never underestimate the importance of petty quarrels. You may consider them a small matter now, but think about when you are married and how these little irritants may chip away at the very foundation of something that is supposed to last a lifetime.

Try opening wide your minds and hearts. It's terribly difficult to communicate when nobody wants to listen.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

AWARDEES with Fr. Nebres and Jesuit provincial superior Fr. Daniel Patrick Huang, SJ (center): Deacon Mario Van Loon representing Fr. Charlito Cerio Colendres (Bukas Palad Award in memory of Fr. Manuel Peypoch, SJ); Fr. Eliseo R. Mercado, OMI (Bukas Palad Award), Dr. Conrado S. Dayrit (Lux-in Domino), Cancio-Ramos, Teofilo T. Bangayan (Ozanam Award), Stauro Punongbayan, son of Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan (Government Service), Elvira Lopez Bautista (Parangal Lingkod Sambayanan), Laurice Guillen and Marilou Diaz Abaya (Gawad Tanglaw ng Lahi)

Nothing is imposible ...



RECOGNIZED for her outstanding contribution to building literacy

From page C1

receive their diplomas, knowing full well that I would never have that privilege.

Now that my children and grandchildren are finished with school, and my great grandchildren are well on their way, I look back at the past 83 years with pride, contentment and much thanks to God. I also look back and realize, with just a tiny hint of regret, that the only thing missing in my life is the fulfillment of my one and only dream.

Thank you for fulfilling that impossible dream today.

Maraming salamat po at mabuhay ang Ateneo!

NANAY **Coring with Fr. Nebres and her family: son Ben and wife Virgie, daughter Cecile with husband Mitto Licauco, and son Fred with wife Precy**

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Feast day of Ireland's Lady of Knock

IRELAND CELEbrates the feast day of Our Lady of Knock on Aug. 21. On that day in 1879, Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist appeared at the south gable of Knock parish church.

The apparition was witnessed by 15 people. The shrine is in the coastal County Mayo.

"Our Lady of Knock is to Ireland as Our Lady of Lourdes is to France," says Sally Lamson who visited the Marian shrine in 2003. She asked the Virgin to help her open a medical clinic for Filipino workers going overseas. Sally promised the Virgin of Knock that she would name the clinic after her.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

Our Lady of Knock Medical Clinic is at the ground floor of Rizal Tower on Sinjian St., Makati. Framed photos of the Virgin hang on the walls of the clinic.

Mila Dolores, who left recently for Knock, and I visited Sally's clinic and saw she really fulfilled her promise.

Mila, on the other hand, fulfilled her dream to visit all eight places where the Virgin appeared. Knock was the last place she visited.

In 1879, the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist appeared at the Knock parish church

From Knock, she flew to Banneux, Belgium, to work as volunteer during the launch of the 75th anniversary of the first apparition in Banneux of the Virgin of the Poor. The celebration is set for Jan. 15 in the Cathedral of Liege.

Visits

Pope John Paul II visited Knock in 1979 during the centenary of the apparition. Mother Teresa went there in 1993. One and a half million people visit the shrine every year.

Shrines

There are Marian shrines in Italy, Spain, Portugal and France. A two-week pilgrimage organized by Ephesus Travel includes Garabandal, the village where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three children and asked them to tell the people to say the Holy Rosary, go to Confession, hear Mass and receive Holy Communion. Call 526-5211 or text 0917-8938267.

Congress

The World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF), formerly known as the Blue Army, will hold an Asian Congress Aug. 21-24, at the Ecotech Center, Lahug, Cebu City.

The activity aims to spread and intensify the Fatima apostolate by organizing and strengthening WAF divisions in Asia and the unity of Asian WAF national divisions.

The national spiritual director, Most Rev. Angel N. Lagdameo, will give the keynote address, while the international president of the organization, professor Americo Lopez Ortiz from Puerto Rico, will talk on Blessed Francisco and Blessed Jacinta Marto as models of perfection. Delegations from Switzerland, India, Korea and Singapore are expected.

For Aetas

Healing exponent Maribi Mapa Garcia will open her solo exhibit, "Take time to smell the flowers," on Aug. 25 at the Citibank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati. Part of the proceeds will go to the "Food for the Body and Food for the Soul" program for Aetas in Zambales. Some 1,000 Aetas will be fed every three months. Exhibit ends Oct. 3. Call 633-0153.

OUR LADY of Knock, patroness of Ireland

Another beneficiary is the Bethesda Springs of Hope Healing Ministry, which plans to build a retreat house and formation center at the Subic Free Zone. Bethesda was founded in 1996 by Fr. Teofilo Rustia; Dr. Connie Martinez, head of the neurology department, St. Luke's Medical Center; and Maribi Garcia.

Bethesda held recently a successful three-day retreat on healing the family tree at the St. Therese Sanctuary Chapel in Subic.

Teresita Lim from Catbalogan, Samar, a cancer survivor, flew to Manila then took the bus to Subic after reading the announcement in this column. She said she wanted to invite Maribi and her group to hold a healing retreat in Catbalogan. If she has the resources, she also likes to set up a healing center there.

Putting up the money to bring the Bethesda group to Catbalogan is a positive step. Call Teresita at (055) 251-2028.

At least three busloads of participants from Zambales parishes joined the retreat organized by Fr. Audie Mozo, chaplain of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SMBA). Speakers were Sally Aquino, Dr. Corrie Martinez and Maribi.

Outreach

Sarabia siblings Drs. Eduard Sarabia, Cristine Sarabia-Heras and Baby Sarabia-Morales did free eye refraction for poor children and adults at the Casa Providencia in Pontevedra, Negros Occidental. Free eyeglasses were provided by a Spanish team brought in by Gretchen Cojuangco. Many people were treated that day.

Sarabia Optical is also helping the Eye Bank Foundation disseminate information on the institution's efforts to provide the gift of sight to Filipinos, through cornea transplants. Dr. Minguita Padilla is president.

Help needed

Despite her father's meager salary as sacristan and janitor of Ermita Church, Maria Kenneth-Genilsa took up nursing at the Adamson University. Now on her third year, she needs help to continue. Please text 0906-2113915. Thank you for your kindness.

Birth anniversary

Maka-Obviars, both clergy and laity, will gather at the Missionaries of St. Therese of the Child Jesus Chapel in Tayabas, Quezon, to mark the birthday of Bishop Obviar at 9 a.m., Aug. 29. Cardinal Rosales and several bishops are expected to concelebrate Mass. MCST accepts late vocations among women aged 35.

Text Sister Elizabeth at 0919-2463974.

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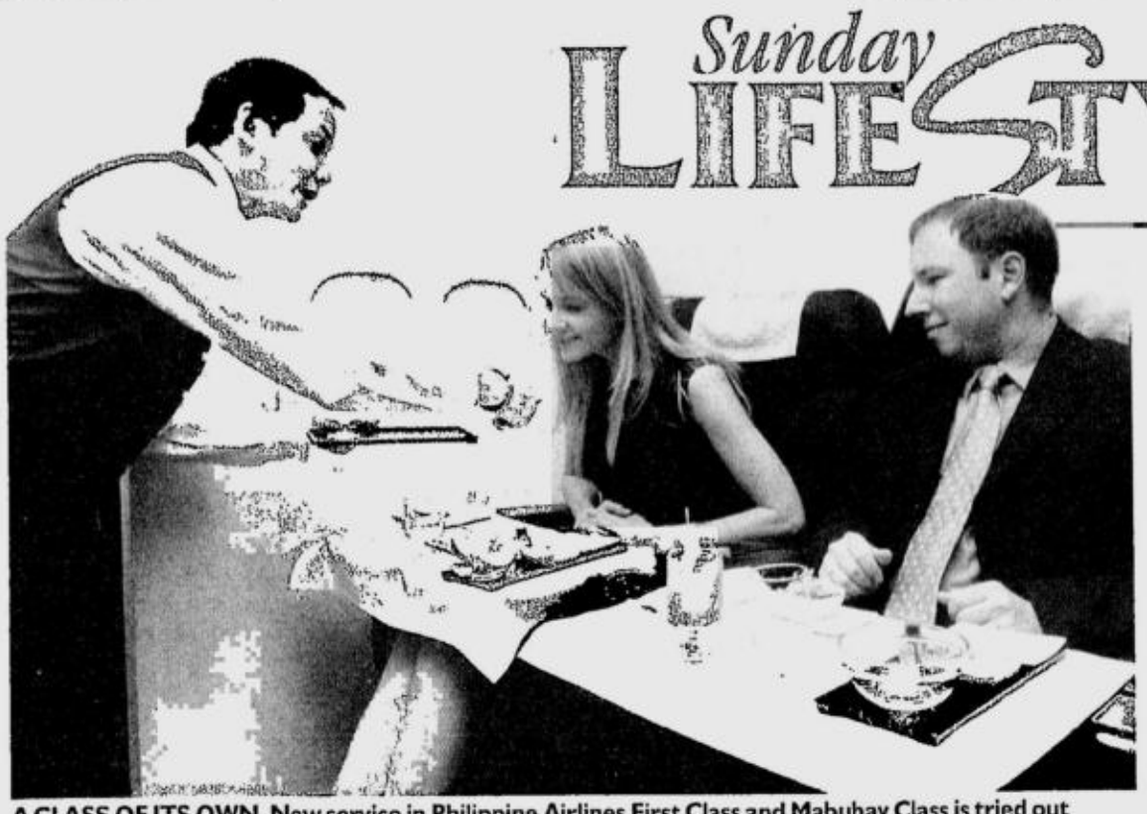
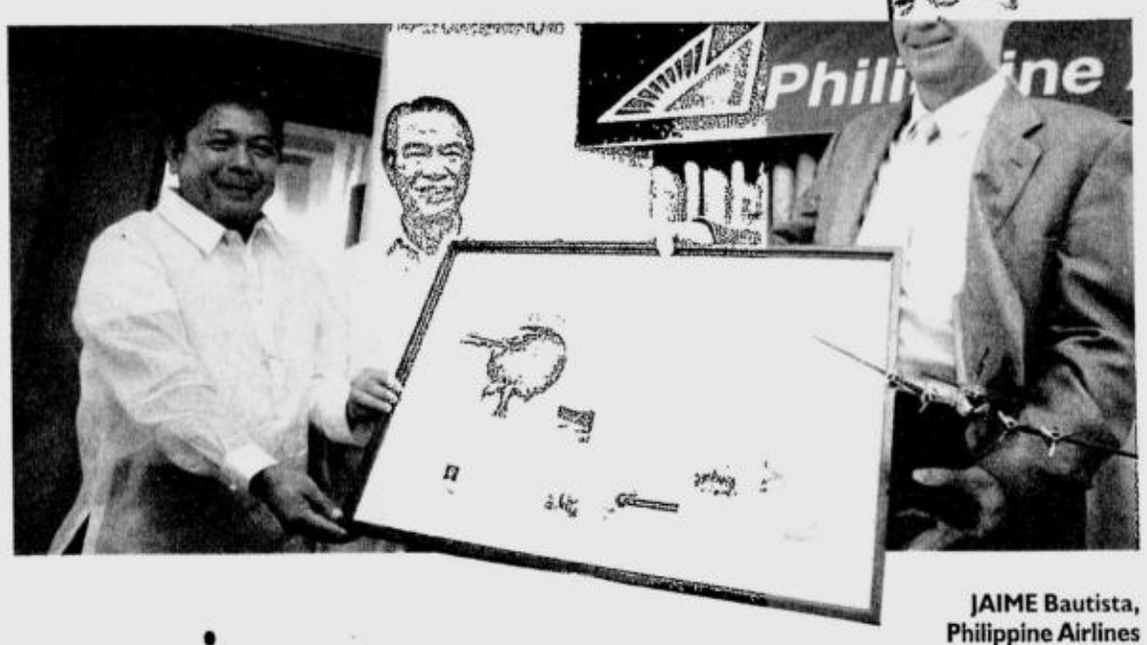


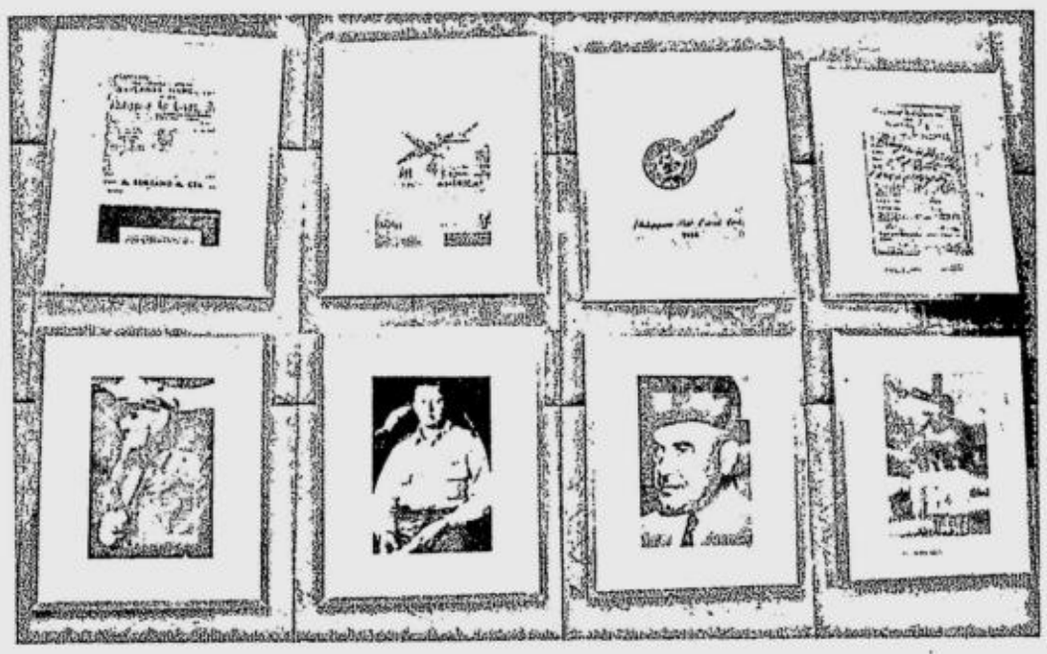


A CLASS OF ITS OWN. New service in Philippine Airlines First Class and Mabuhay Class is tried out during cocktails commemorating the first crossing of the Pacific by an Asian airline.

JAIME Bautista, Philippine Airlines president and chief operating officer; Lucio Tan, PAL chair and CEO; and Cleveland Charles, acting economic counselor of US embassy, presenting a copy of July 31, 1946, newspaper with headline "Philippine Airlines Crossing the Pacific"

PHOTOS BY JESS YUSON

New transpacific service revives romance of historic flight



MEMORABILIA from the first PAL transpacific flight include reproductions of photos of personalities and planes.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 60th anniversary this year of the First Transpacific Crossing by an Asian Airline, Philippine Airlines has launched One by One in its First Class and Mabuhay Class Service for its transpacific flights, starting with PAL's evening flights to Los Angeles.

Adopting a style that is flexible and modern, the new service differentiates PAL from other Asian service carriers by emphasizing the combined western and Asian traits of the Filipinos, giving off a "Latin beat" that is reflected in the airlines' dining and other services.

The service commemorates July 31, 1946, when a Philippine Airlines DC-4 took off from the Nielson Airport in Makati and landed in Oakland, California, 41 hours later, with stops in Guam, Wake Island, Johnston Atoll and Honolulu. The flight earned for PAL the distinction of being the first Asian airline to cross the Pacific Ocean.

One by One emphasizes PAL's personalized touch. The new in-flight meal service method recreates the "a la carte" service where passengers can select their own meal from a variety of choices.

Each dish is exquisitely plated by PAL's cabin crew, giving each meal a distinctive and tailored touch, in the tradition of fine dining restaurants.

"On Demand" service allows passengers to partake their meals anytime during the flight.

A table landscape captures the sights, sounds and feel of the Philippine archipelago. Finely crafted by Noritake Japan, Ltd., PAL's new Coastal Collection Dining Ware features soft waves and intricate details of the Philippine shores.

PAL's Signature Dishes are specially developed by executive chef Ian McKenzie. He has transformed some popular local staples such as *tinola* and *menudo* into exotic dishes exclusively for PAL.

PAL's classic Arroz

NEW/ D2

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STUNT drivers Kurt Hocke

Theme parks all the way

Text and photos by Chelo Banal-Formoso

IN THE SPRING WHEN ALL OF America shakes off its winter woes, the Travel Industry of America (Tia) takes advantage of the season's spectacular beauty and holds its annual tourism powwow to cultivate interest in the United States as a destination. And every year—whether it's been the worst of times or the best of times business-wise—Northwest Airlines sponsors a group of Filipino travel journalists to cover the event.

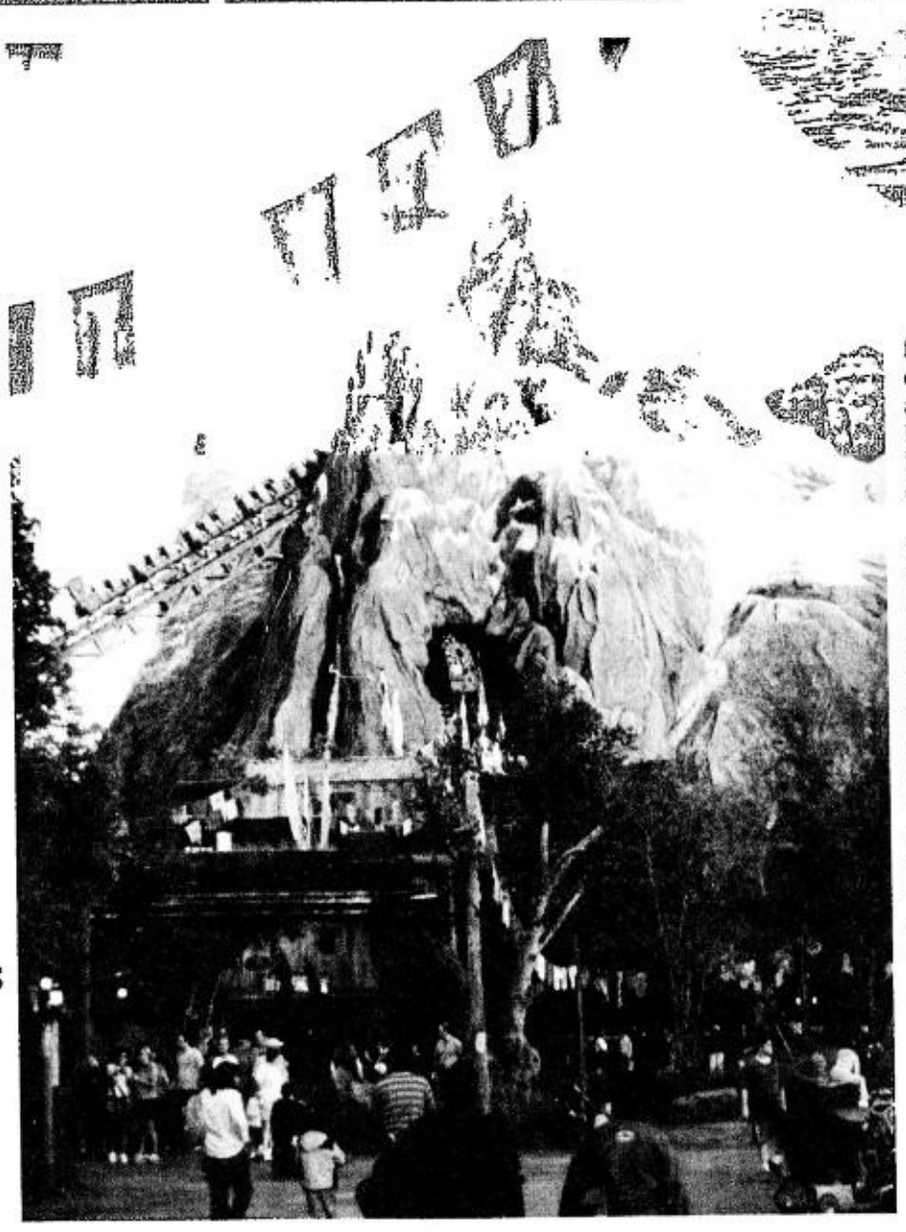
The 2006 version was hosted by Orlando, Florida, the only American city to have done so for five times now. Because it is home to USA's premier theme parks and luxurious resorts, Orlando had little trouble reeling in over a thousand tour buyers from 70 countries, as well as travel industry players right in the US itself.

According to travel industry reports, 40 percent of travelers are likely to take children or grandchildren on their longest trip. With that kind of prospect, Orlando stood to gain everything in hosting the travel conference. With the top three theme parks—Disney World, Universal and Sea World—calling it home, Orlando is easily America's No. 1 family destination. It is also the second largest convention facility in the US.

Walt Disney's vast kingdom in Orlando heads the list of premiere tourist destinations in this central Florida city

Putting on the Ritz

Part of Orlando's pride and joy is the Ritz Carlton Orlando Grande Lakes, which served as home for the Philippine delegation. On their second day at this beautifully landscaped hotel, police cars and fire trucks dotted the grounds. The scene turned cinematic as the premises were secured by men in black



EXPEDITION Everest, newest attraction at Disney World careens down a mock mountain in Animal Kingdom. DISNEY

for the arrival of, believe it or not, US President George W. Bush, who was going to speak at another conference. You may not be a Dubya fan, but you have to concede that he has good taste in hotels, or at least his handlers do.

Luxurious is the first word that comes to mind when a guest enters any of the rooms at this lake-ringed hotel. The fairways allow top-class golfing year-round, but if your interests do not swing to golf, you can still add wellness to your stay by visiting the Ritz Carlton spa. The largest in Central Florida, it is equipped with fitness center, private lap pool, café, meditation room, and his and hers spa areas with steam rooms, saunas and whirlpools. The spa menu lists massages and body treatments for couples and solo guests, and such pampering as aqua latte foot massage, citrus magnolia soufflé pregnancy massage, East Indian lime scalp and body treatment, among delicious-sounding luxuries.

But go for real food by all means. The $13 plus plus breakfast at The Vineyard Grill is filling, but tea costs extra; the breakfast buffet at $27 plus plus is perfect for the hearty eater; and the dinner menu offers such interesting specialties that kinda make you homesick, such as Steamed Manila Clams with Chorizo, Sweet Peppers and Tomato Coriander Broth.

Marketplace

The Orlando Convention Center, this year's modern and vast venue, was the perfect structure to accommodate the See America Marketplace. The nerve center of the annual travel powwow, the marketplace was filled with booths where suppliers could sell hotels, restaurants, resorts, transportation services and other tour products. Travel agents from around the world visited these booths to learn more about what America had to offer tourists beyond Hollywood and Broadway.

Among the more popular booths is the CityPass booth, which gave away free booklets for travel to the major American cities included in its program. The cities of New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco, Hollywood (Toronto, too, although it's in Canada, and soon, Atlanta) are each honored with a CityPass booklet packed with tickets to the best museums, theme parks, historical sites, entertainment and other attractions, as well as transport and sightseeing services. Each booklet is sold to the public at half of what it would normally cost to buy the tickets individually. Even better value for money, you dont have to wait in line if you have a CityPass ticket.

There are all sorts of freebies for the press every year but the best of all perks is always the media tour. It makes sense for the powwow organizers to take travel writers on a familiarization tour of the host city instead of leaving them cooped up in the convention hall all day.

GUEST speaker US Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez TIA

NWA general manager for the Philippines, Todd A. Anderson

2006 POW WOW opens with ribbon cutting by Delta Airlines' Scott Slater, Gatorland's Mark McHugh, Orlando/Orange Country CVB's William Peeper, Orange County Mayor Richard Crotty, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts' Jay Rasulo, TIA's Roger Dow, and Orange County's George Rodon. TIA

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berry and Marc Summers after show at Disney-MGM

CLOCKWISE, from top, left: Abloom are the Disney characters at the Epcot Center; NWA's Gina Campos with journalists Tanya Lara and Ivy Mendoza; dolphins touch the heart with acrobatics in Sea World.

Better safe than sorry is new mantra

"Airplane travel is nature's way of making you look like your passport photo."

So quipped a print ad for an online travel service in the United States. And so true now more than ever. After the endless hours that passengers have to spend in airports going through strict checks for security, security and more security, they certainly end up looking as unglamorous as they do in their passport photos.

Even before London authorities foiled a plot to bomb passenger planes bound for various American cities, travel to the US was punishing enough. In the spring it took us 29 hours to get to Orlando, Florida, an ordeal made worse by secondary security checking at the Nagoya, Narita and Detroit airports since we were US-bound. Upon retrieving our luggage at the Orlando airport, a suitcase of ours had been ripped. (The same thing happened on our trip to New York the year before so we hope the US Transportation Security Administration is not making a habit of this.) There was, of course, a notice of baggage inspection from the friendly TSA. The card said our bag was inspected "to protect you and your fellow passengers."

Now air passengers have to go through even stricter travel procedures. While in and of themselves airline security measures have become a form of terrorism and have taken the fun out of flying, airline companies and passengers can do nothing but, as they say, grin and bear it. Better safe than sorry is the new travel industry mantra.

To guide passengers through safe and less stressful passage, here are some reminders per the TSA's new requirements. Check out www.nwa.com for more information.

- If you really want to breeze through security, consider checking in all your luggage.
- No liquids, gels, lotions or similar items in carry-on luggage, including beverages, hairspray, toothpaste and shampoo. No aerosols and juice either. Better to pack these items in the luggage you're checking in. If for any reason you discover a bottle or two of these items in your person before passing through security checkpoints, it is best to throw them away.
- Avoid traveling with a baby if you can. If not, you can bring baby formula or food, even expressed breast milk, on board. But how the authorities can check for safety without exposing these sensitive substances to bacteria or other impurities is another issue.
- You can hand-carry your prescription medicine but make sure the name on the bottle is the same as the name on the plane ticket. Even non-prescription medicines if "essential" are allowed but must not exceed 4 oz per container. Also okay are liquids or gels for diabetic passengers not to exceed 8 oz per container. Voluntarily present these items for inspection at the security checkpoint if you don't want any delays.
- Don't waste your money buying booze, perfumes, makeup or any products containing liquids, creams or gels from the onboard Duty Free selection if you're catching a connecting flight because these will not be allowed as carry-on and will be confiscated.
- If after the security checkpoint you decide to buy gel because you cannot stand having a bad hair day, go ahead and use it but discard it before boarding your flight.
- Wear slip-ons or mocs because you will be asked to remove your shoes at security checkpoints even if there are no metals in your shoes setting off the alarm.
- Get to the airport earlier than you've been used toin pre-Osama days. International flight passengers should be at the airport three hours prior to departure. If it's a usually crowded airport (i.e. Naia and Centennial), allow yourself even more time.

"You can expect these checks to be nearly universal," says the NWA website, and better believe it.

Not to worry—NWA is providing additional bottled water on all international flights as well as US domestic flights. Hopefully, there will be basic grooming kits, too, for all passengers on all planes.

—Chelo Banal-Formoso

Organized by the Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bu-au, the tours were designed explore Orlando's natural y and rich history, as well as ry, cultural and retail offer-

ation

orida town had quite a roster easures, from a kayak tour of , springs, rivers and lakes to ife to a swamp buggy ride st-to-goodness working cattle the menu was a trip to the Center Visitor Complex, with rnational Space Station Cen-tle launch pads. Busch Gar- offers animals, live enter- tallest roller coaster in Flori- which takes riders 200 feet 90 degrees straight down. you'll give away your age. hand exposure to Orlando's chnology, nothing beats a visit American theme parks—Sea Studios and Disneyworld. entertainment abounds in tlo, the world's most famous re park. This is where chil- close and personal with dol- und penguins during marine . This 200-acre park gives ndersea mystery and affords table animal interactions, al- povers with sharks are al-

ndo actually has two theme rsal Studios, where movies e the attraction, and Islands here the cutting-edge rides eractive shows are the head-

of any trip to Orlando has got Disney World. Now if you're been to Disneyland in Ana- , so why bother with another you don't understand. If Uni- arks, Disney has four: Epcot MGM, Magic Kingdom, and n. Walt Disney's property in imes larger than Disneyland fornia.

ests from one location to an- clock during park hours. Fair a whole day or two to thor- d and enjoy what each park

called Fastpass allows guests e slot for the most popular s no waiting in long lines. All astpass and come back at the n the ticket. Before then, you ther park attractions. prawling city and no park is ot from a hotel or another good idea to book a room in This will allow you to pace break at mid-day and just go rk in time for the evening

lines flies to Orlando daily via all 841-8800/841-9800. carlton.com.

PREFLIGHT at Nielson Airport in Makati 60 years ago

INTERIOR of the DC-4, surplus military planes that were PAL's first aircraft

New transpacific service revives...

From page D1

Caldo, famous the world over, is also part of the menu.

The meal service consists of *tapas* (canapés), hot and cold appetizers, soup, salad, main course, dessert, cheese plate and more. The service likewise offers PAL's new wine collection.

One by One was designed with the assistance of Performa Consulting, Ltd., an Australian-based airline service consultant.

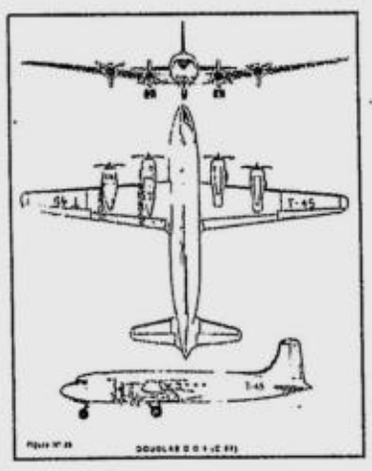
"One by One is a very significant service and product innovation undertaken by PAL. It . . . delivers the ultimate customer experience. The service is one of the most distinctive and customer-friendly in modern aviation," says Keith Yates, president of Performa.

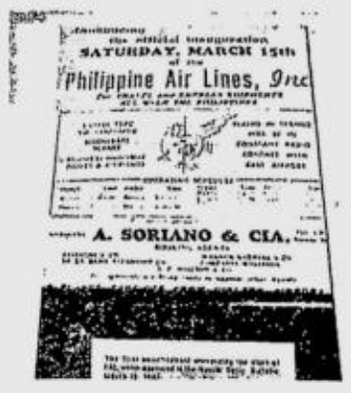
"It is timely for us to introduce new and modern equipment and a totally new, elegant and personalized service on our First Class and Mabuhay Class service," says Felix J. Cruz, PAL vice president for marketing support.

One on One is offered on LAX PR102 and PR103 evening flights, and will be offered on Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Honolulu, Vancouver, Sydney and Melbourne flights by next year.

PAL'S first flight attendants

BOARDING time at Nielson Airport





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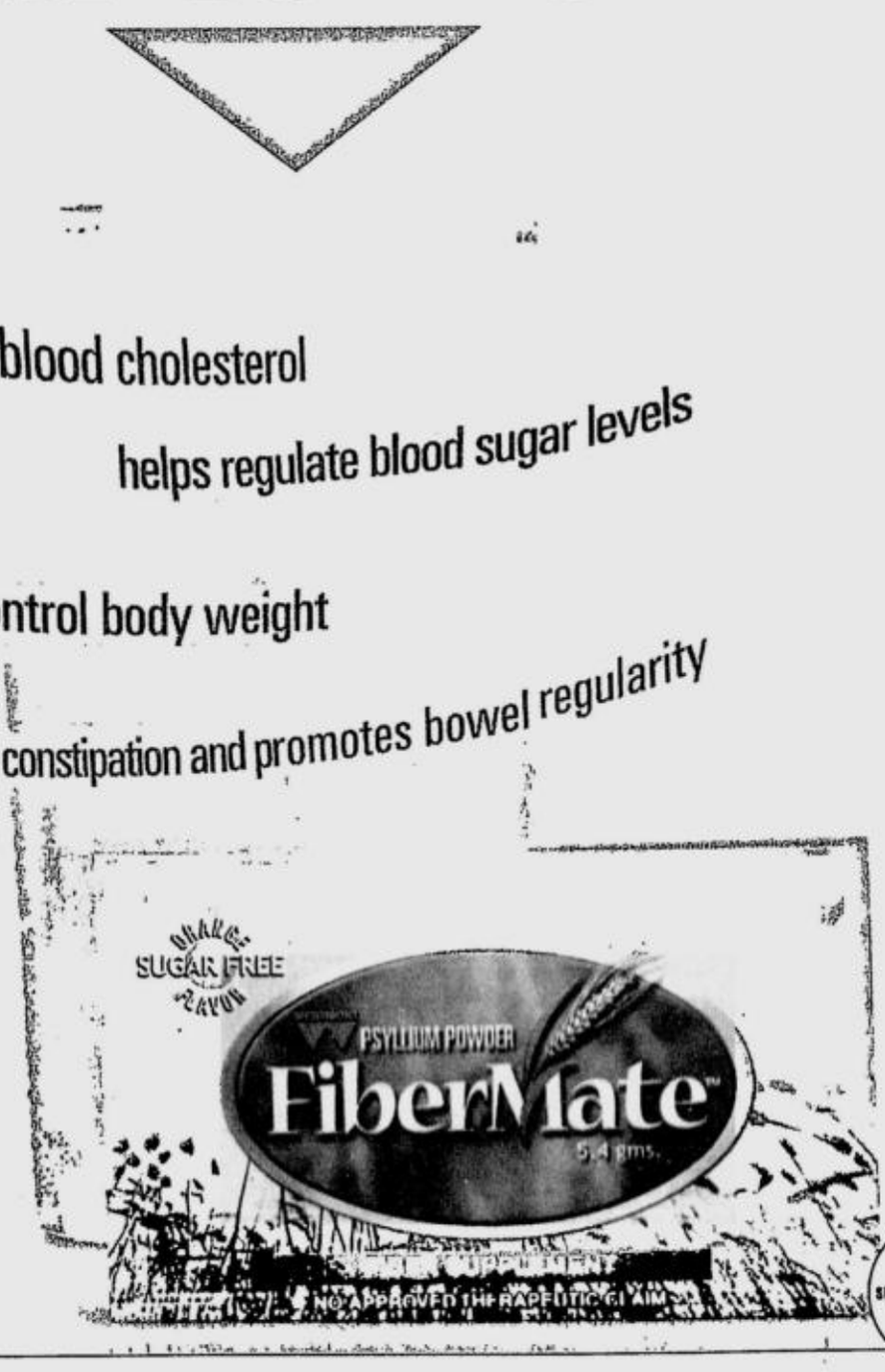

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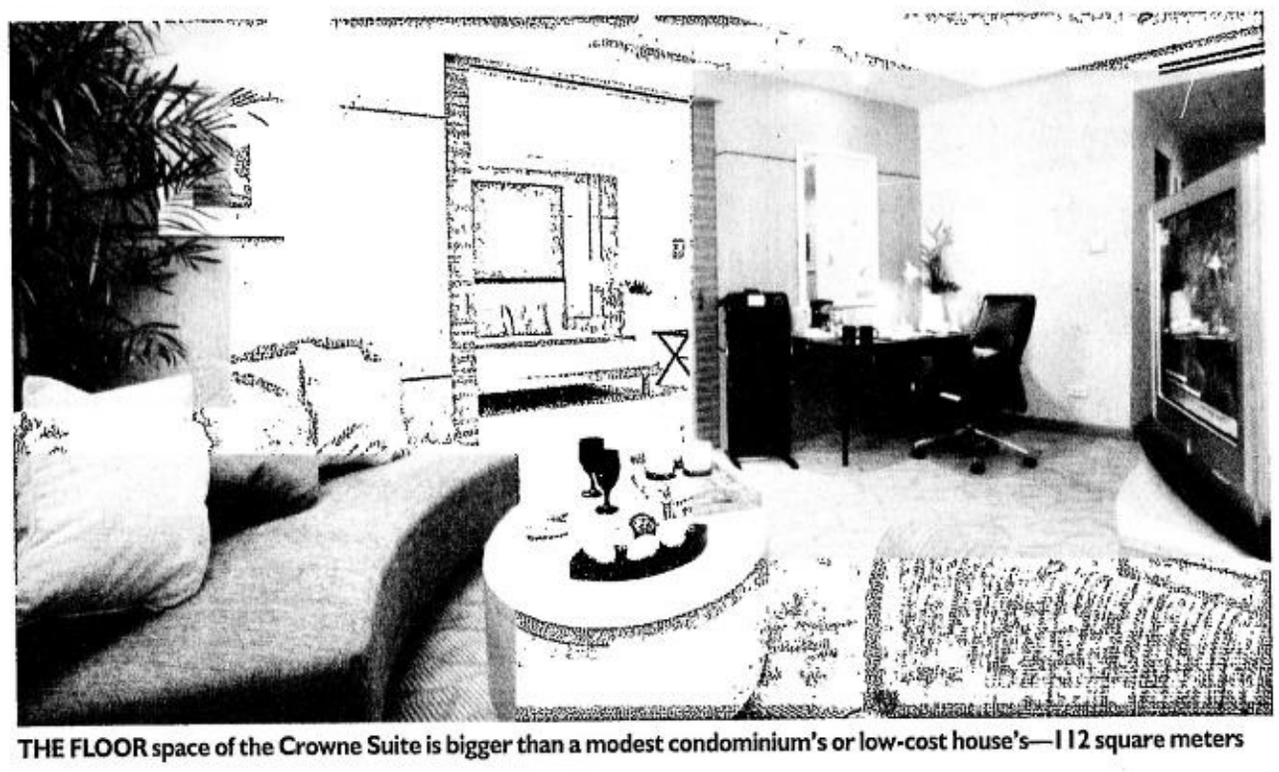
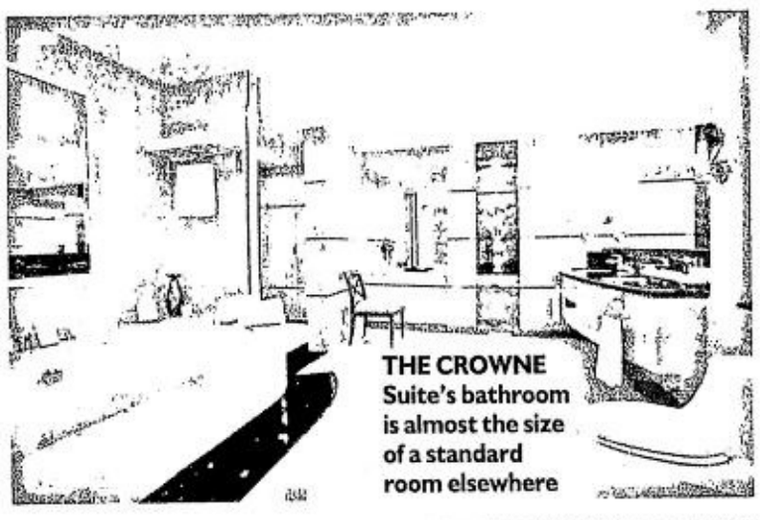


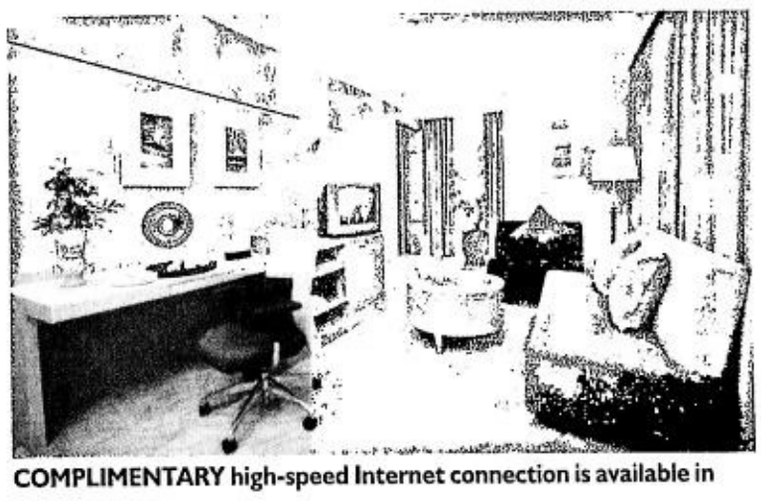
THE FLOOR space of the Crowne Suite is bigger than a modest condominium's or low-cost house's—112 square meters

Crowne Plaza has reserved two floors for the exclusive use of discerning travelers who want more than just efficient service

THE CLUB Lounge allows quick check-in and check-out



THE CROWNE Suite's bathroom is almost the size of a standard room elsewhere



COMPLIMENTARY high-speed Internet connection is available in every room

New club promises royal treatment for 'members'

By Linda B. Bolido

ALL BUSINESS AND EFFICIENCY is good.

But if you are a frequent traveler who spend a large chunk of time in hotel rooms, there comes a time, no doubt, when business—like efficiency begins to pall and you wish for a little more personalized service, a little pampering, as well as access to facilities and amenities you have at home and in your office.

At Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila in Ortigas, you can now get that special treatment if you join the "club." And there's even no need to apply for membership.

For an additional charge, you can have your booking upgraded from a regular hotel room to a room or suite in Crowne Club.

The two-floor club offers special accommodation for discerning travelers who do not mind paying for the extra attention, the more personalized service, and the additional amenities and top-of-the-line facilities that help make a stay in a place almost as comfortable and pleasant as being back home.

Crowne Plaza converted floors 18th and 19th into the Crowne Club with rooms and suites ranging in size from 35 to 52 square meters.

The jewel of the crown, so to speak, is the Crowne Suite, which is almost a one-bedroom apartment with its own spacious dining and living rooms, utility/pantry area, two bathrooms with a walk-in closet. The bedroom has a floor space bigger than some modest condominium or low-cost housing units—112 square meters.

Comforts of home

Every room or suite has its own safe, trouser press, bath robes, and three telephone units, among others. You can also have an aromatherapy burner, if you so wish, or enjoy a 15-minute foot reflexology or tension-relief back massage from Suriya Spa.

Each floor has its own valet or room attendant, on call 24 hours, and the exclusive services of the Club Lounge concierge, an all-around information resource prepared to handle everything you may require from making dinner reservations to providing business or clerical services.

Though the club has its own business center that provides Wi-Fi Internet access, complimentary high-speed Internet connection is also available in every room.

If you have to hold meetings, you can use the Club Lounge Boardroom for free for two hours, subject to availability of the room, every time you stay at the club.

Quick check-in and check-out are offered at the Club Lounge, ensuring no standing in line and waiting. The lounge offers refreshments from 6 a.m.-10 p.m. It also serves complimentary buffet breakfast, afternoon tea and sunset cocktails daily.

As an inaugural offer, up to September, you can get an upgrade to the Crowne Club by paying an additional $18.88 or P999 net per night to the basic room or suite rate in the lower floors.

A member of the Intercontinental Hotels Group, Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila is at the corner of Ortigas and ADB Avenues and is adjacent to Robinsons Galleria Mall. Call 633-7222 or e-mail mnlcp@ichotelsgroup.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

PILAR-GONZALES

LtJG. **Jess B. Pilar**, son of **Oscar** and **Luciana Pilar**, and **Nadia V. Gonzales**, daughter of **Ronaldo** and **Miriam Gonzales**, recently exchanged vows at San Narciso Parish Church in Bucay, Abra.

VALMOCINA-SANGUTAN

Jason P. Valmocina, son of **Juanito** and **Gloria Valmocina**, will wed **Margie Sangutan**, daughter of **Polonio** and **Linda Sangutan**, at 4 p.m., Sept. 16, at San Fernando de Dilao Parish (Paco Church). Fr. **Romeo de Castro** will officiate. Reception will be held at Ibarra's Garden, Manila.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

OSTIQUE-MARQUEZ

Justine Clio Barcelona Marquez, daughter of **Justino IV** and **Concepcion Marquez** recently married **Joseph Bauzon Ostique**, son of **Edgar Sr.** and **Purification Ostique**, at the Sto. Niño Parish Church, Midsayap.

VITERBO-GOZON

Blas G. Viterbo, son of the late Dr. **George Viterbo** and **Marlyn Gregorio Viterbo**, will wed **Maritess Gozon**, daughter of lawyer **Felipe** and **Teresa Gozon**, on Aug. 27. Reception will be at the Manila Polo Club.

HAMIDIAN-VALDE

Ali Hamidian and **Shiela Valde** were recently married in a civil rites ceremony at the Manila City Hall. A beach party at Pueblo Por La Playa, Pagbilao, Quezon was held later to celebrate the wedding.

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BEFORE AFTER

Varicose Veins
BEFORE AFTER

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EYEBAGS / DEEP SET	P25,000
BREAST ENLARGEMENT	P115,000
BUTT ENLARGEMENT (hydrogel)	P115,000
LIPOSUCTION full abdomen + waist	P75,000
PERMANENT SWEAT REMOVAL (underarm)	P30,000
WHITENING: injectable glutathione	P2,500
SCLEROTHERAPY (VEINS)	P1,500
BOTOX (allergan) package (forehead, crows feet, frown lines)	P12-15,000 depending on severity
AQUAMID permanent filler injection for fuller lips & deep lines	P23,000 / syringe
STRETCHMARK, CELLULITE, FATS: CARBOXYTHERAPY	P2,500/area

THERMALIFT PHOTO REJUVENATION FULLFACE
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PACKAGE: P13,500 for 10 sessions

MESOTHERAPY FOR FATS
P2,500 / ampule per session
PACKAGE: P2,000 / ampule + FREE IPL
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IPL / LASER PERMANENT HAIR REMOVAL underarm P4,000 / session mustache P2,000 / session

THE COSMETIC SURGERY, LASER & VEIN CLINIC
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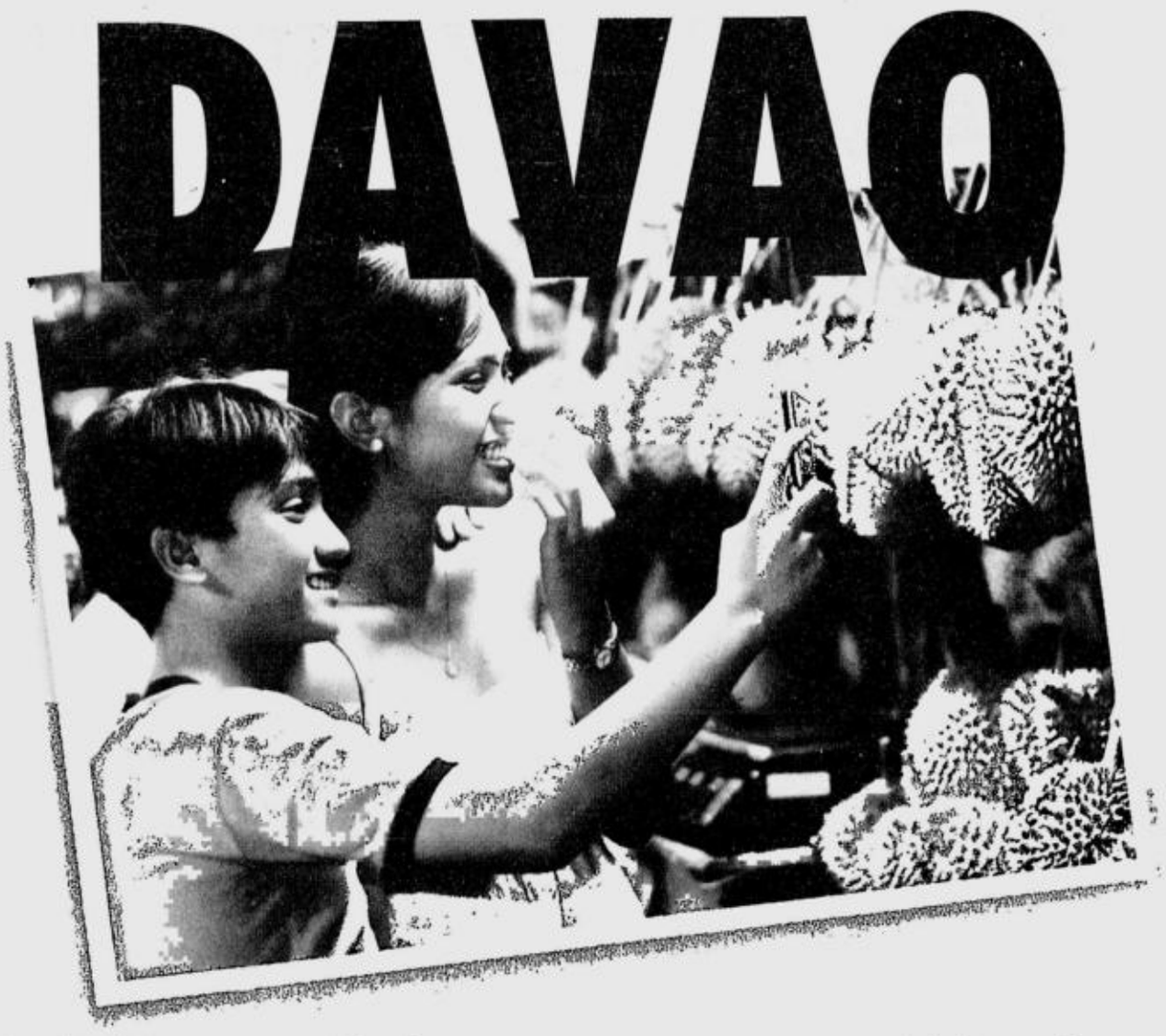
BIGGER IN SUN

IN DAVAO



Sun is working hard to increase network capacity and coverage by investing P11 billion for more cell sites with even more capacity per cell site. That means more people can make more calls and texts even when buying durian in Davao. Now, everyone can enjoy faster connections, best-value products and services like: 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited • 24/7 Text Unlimited Daylite Call and Text Unlimited • Sulit Calls

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SUN CELLULAR
Better network, better value.

Amid announcements of help wanted, things for sale and even obit, two INQUIRER employees realized what they had was for keeps

Finding love in the classifieds

NEWLYWEDS Joel and Sharon (née Robas) Macawile

WITH THE MAID and matron of honor, the bride's best friends since college, Ana Alora and Janette Carriaga

By Marlet D. Salazar

THE PERSONALIZED WEDDING invitation said it all—how they found love amid obituaries, and announcements of things for sale or for lease.

Sharon Wendy Robas and Joel Macawile met when they both worked at the INQUIRER's Classified Ads.

She is now the editorial assistant of Saturday Special and Macawile is deskman in the advertising department. But it was at the Classified Ads section, where they both started, that they realized that what they had was "for keeps."

After nine years, Robas and Macawile got married, on the same day the bride's parents celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary.

It was a joyful and intimate occasion, shared only with relatives and very close friends. The ceremony was held at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart with Fr. Louis Lester Niez, AM, officiating.

Robas met her five brothers (she's the youngest and the only girl in a brood of eight) and two nephews (who took the place of her two departed brothers) on the aisle as she walked with parents Job and Alice.

As the bride walked down the aisle, the Chorus Paulinus sang.

All songs in the ceremony and reception were personally chosen by the bride, most of them from her favorite choral albums.

The bride glowed in a simple yet elegant gown by John Abul. Her entourage wore pomelo-pink gowns. Robas' bouquet of dark-pink roses was complemented by the colorful mums and gerberas provided by Vermont Flowers for all the women and flower girls in the entourage.

Principal sponsors were Alfonso and Germelina Francisco (represented by Ben and Agnes Monteiro), Felix Arjona, Renato Reinoso, Donald Lim, Estrellita de la Cruz, Margie Quimpo-Espino and Imelda Limbo.

The bride's best friends since college at St. Paul Manila, May Janette Carriaga and Maria Ana Alora, were matron and maid of honor, respectively.

Macawile's best men were his brother Edgar and Jong Valientes, a good friend and fellow member in the Manila Dragons Dragonboat Rowing Team.

Robas' nieces, Nikki and Ion Robas, and this writer were bridesmaids. Groomsmen included longtime friend Jimmy Lorenzo of the INQUIRER, Joseph Fua and OJ Robas.

Candle, veil and cord sponsors were the bride's cousins Judy Robas, Mitch Alquillera, Celine Monteiro; and the groom's rowing buddies Edward Vasquez, John Jamasali and Marlon Ilagan.

WITH THE GROOM'S immediate family

DEEP in the arms of the two men she loves most: Dad...

...and Joel

As they read their vows, Robas paused in mid-sentence, overcome by emotions.

The newlyweds not only nurtured a relationship but a friendship that made their bond stronger.

Robas was the constant companion of Macawile in his outdoor activities; the "official" videographer and photographer of the Manila Dragons Team, as Raul Bumanglag, the team's manager, said in his speech (she joined the team in China where the MD Men's Crew was first runner-up and third runner-up, respectively, in two separate dragon-boat races in Guangzhou and Shaoguan).

Macawile, on the other hand, supported Robas' endeavors, accompanying her to concerts and plays.

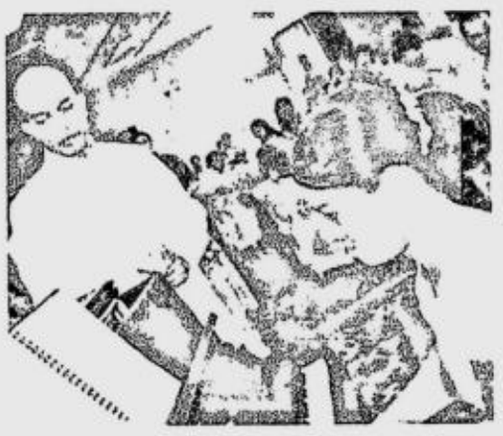
The reception was held at the YMCA Function Rooms. The maid and matron of honor were masters of ceremonies.

Robas surprised her husband by playing David Pomeranz's "Born for You" on piano. Nikki and Ion serenaded the newlyweds with "In your Eyes."

A PowerPoint presentation on their years together was shown. It was a collection of photographs taken on out-of-town trips, family gatherings and other moments together.

For the traditional first dance of newlyweds, Robas' brothers Gerry and Ferdy played the piano and sang "An Affair to Remember," their parents' favorite song.

The joyous event was recorded and documented by renowned wedding photographer Chito Vecina and his team.



THE BRIDE performs a special number for her groom.

...and Joel

THE NEWLYWEDS with principal sponsors: Agnes B. Monteiro (proxy for Germelina A. Francisco), Margie Quimpo-Espino, Estrellita S. de la Cruz, Imelda B. Limbo, Donald Patrick L. Lim, Renato R. Reinoso, Ben Monteiro (for Alfonso Francisco Jr.) and Felix G. Arjona

JOEL and Sharon

WITH FRIENDS from the dragon boat rowing team, Manila Dragons

LADIES in waiting: Mandy Taboada, Fionna Ottiger, Barbara Aboitiz, Christina Bradner, Mia Borromeo, Tetchie Hagedorn, Sevrine Miailhe, Anne Marie Saguil and Junie Pena

Family jewels, both real and imagined

From page E4

sent its latest collection. He once converted the Makati Shangri-La's rear lobby entrance into an elegant, white-draped dining hall. Two months ago, he creatively waved his magic wand and made the Ayala Museum Lobby and Zen Garden into a chic, chill-out/lounge party place with contemporary music and classics revisited by top DJ **Manolet Dario**.

Sit-down affair

Recently, he transformed the Shang Palace into the "Sapphire Room" just for one night for the launch of Bulgari's latest Rosette Collection. The Makati Shang's famed Chinese Restaurant was nowhere to be found. Instead, guests entered an exhibit hall and enjoyed a beautiful, sit-down dinner party with a special menu prepared by executive chef **Christopher Romine**.

At the Ayala Museum event, the new Parentesi Collection was revealed, with models wearing exquisite pieces in gold combined with white, brilliant-cut diamonds. Amid rows of retro paintings of the "Parentesi inspirations" from the 1970s to '80s, guests marveled at the exhibit and the beautiful jewelry.

Fashion choreographer **Jackie Aquino** captured the contemporary feel of the jewelry with his direction for the exhibit. Unfortunately, I totally missed that part of the event since I was late as usual. But I caught the continuing party at the Zen Garden, with heavy cocktails in a marvelous spread by Manila Peninsula and flowers executed by **Robert Blancaflor**'s 1816 Flower Shop.

As in all Bulgari events, most guests were never without a champagne glass or cocktail drink in hand. Future Trade International provided overflowing drinks, so guests enjoyed Woodbridge Cabernet red wine, Chardonnay for white wine, White Zinfandel rose wine and Bombay Sapphire gin all night long.

Generous mood

From one collection to another, Bulgari Jewelry is always presented to its discerning clients in the most extraordinary fashion. Truly, Mario's creative brains always manages to cook up stunning venues and excellent shows. Good thing, too, because how does one entice husbands to buy jewelry for their wives and not their mistresses? The key thing is to get them to attend the dinners and create a mood of generosity.

Mario clearly knows how. He makes sure guests are having a great time and husbands have a continuous flow of liquor, so when the collection is displayed, their wives have them hook, line and sinker. I think Dennis knows that as well, so he tries to avoid functions where I can bat my lashes at him and say, "Honey, do you love me?"

At the Sapphire Room, my fun table had elegant couples like **Abe** and **Nini Licaros** and **Renato** and **Maritess Enriquez** already enjoying the poached scallops and baby lobster appetizers. As the main course of wok-seared Red Snapper accompanied by Penfolds Koonunga Hill Shiraz Cabernet was served, Dennis finally arrived, right in time for the unveiling of the Rosette Collection. He ended up being seated beside Nini, who gave him all the right suggestions on how to make me happy.

Top models, in stunning hair and makeup by Toni and Guy Salon (tel. 8128559), soon displayed the brilliant collection of jewelry and watches. The Rosette Collection had diamonds surrounded by colorful, semiprecious stones set in circular patterns that I really liked, as I am more into colors and fun designs.

They also had more streamlined pieces in white gold and diamonds, but the colored pieces were more appealing to me. With my birthday just around the corner, I wonder if my husband had enough champagne that evening so that he can consider getting me another Bulgari to add to my limited real-jewelry collection.

And while he is at it, he should remember that we have two daughters to pass on these heirlooms to!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

SHANGHAI lovers Michael Huang and Cathy Yap

ROSETTE collectors Vicki Belo and Joey Santos

A FAMILY affair. Chatty Roxas, Arbie Bondoc, Isabel Bondoc

LOUIE and Mely Ablaza

PRETTY ladies Barbie Tiangco, Nina Ynares and Nikki Carlos

HAPPY couple Maritess and Renato Enriquez

ZEN Garden is transformed into a Bulgari Lounge.

NBK DJ Manolet Dario

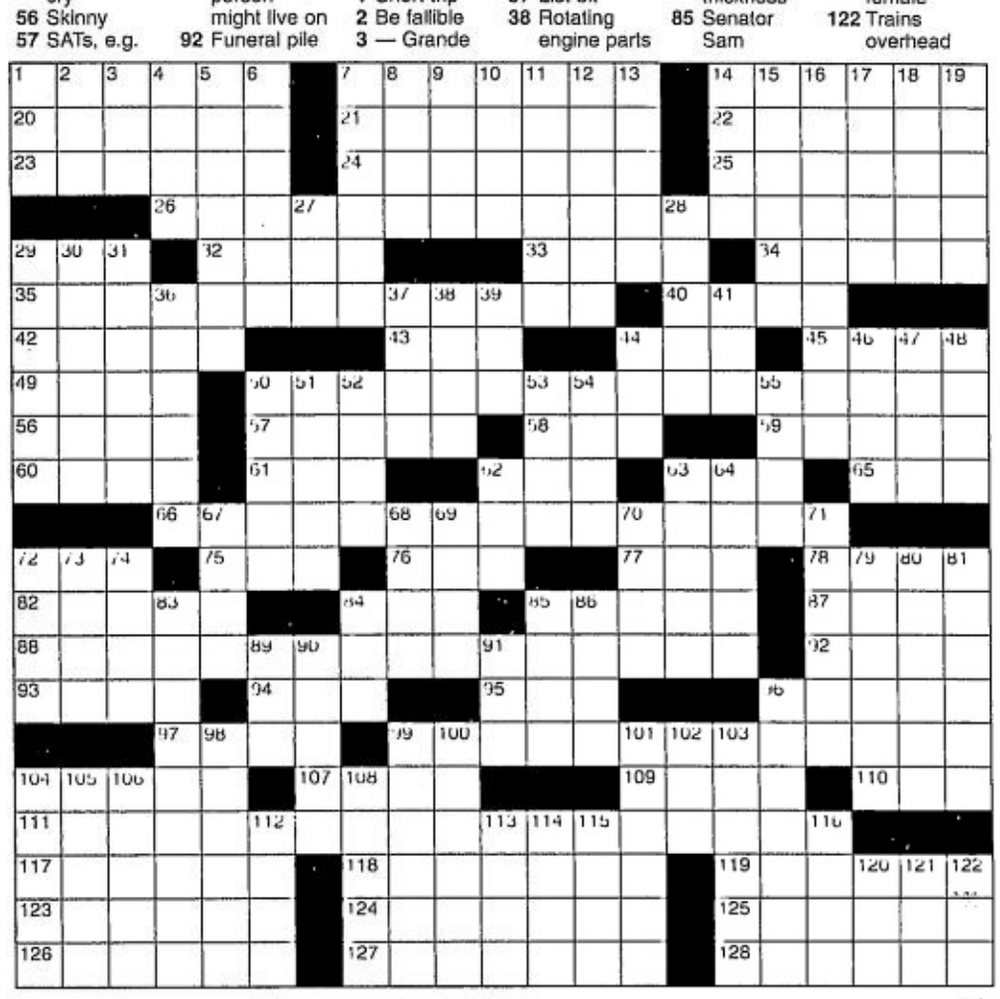
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

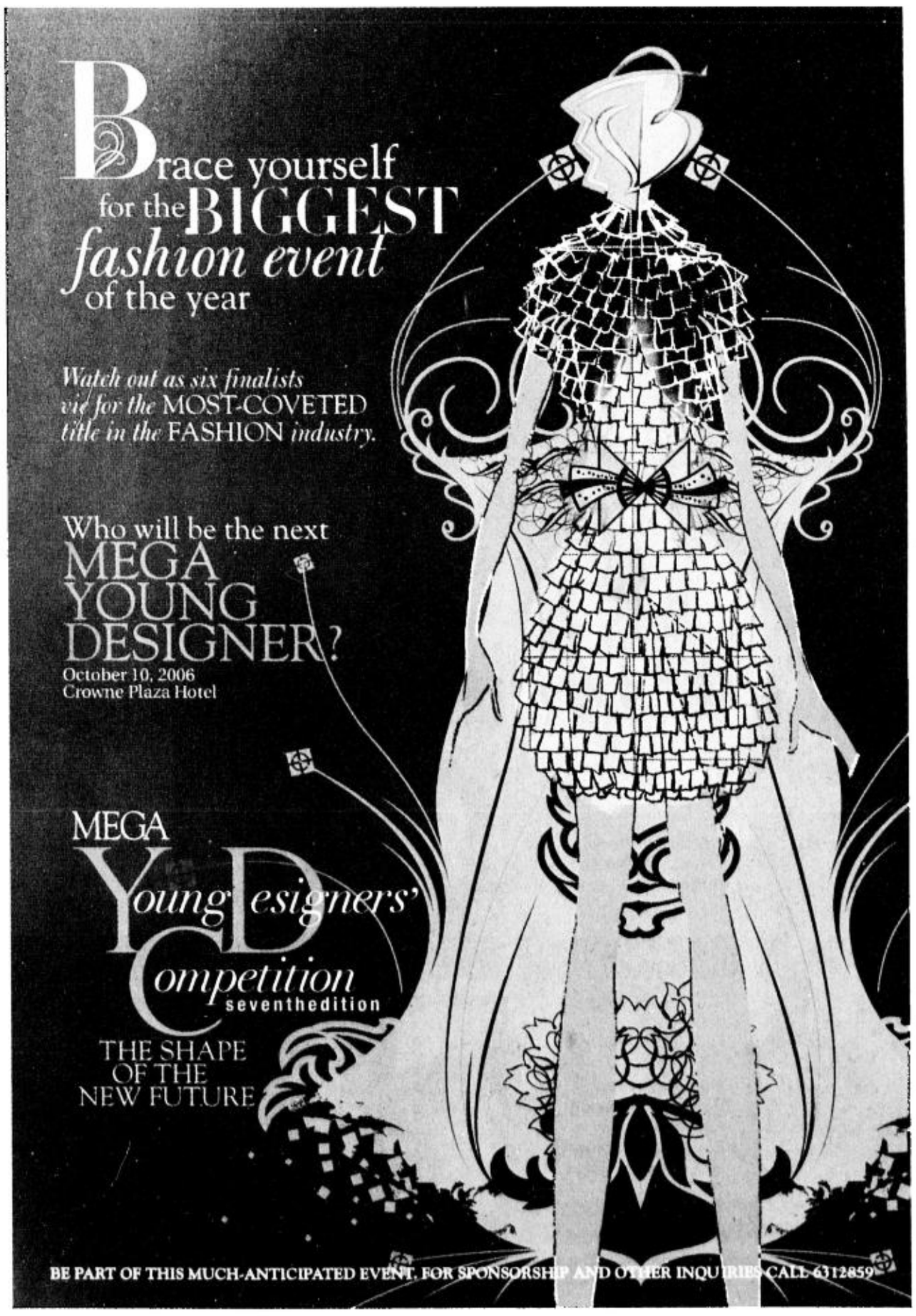
A RIDE

ACROSS
1 Like some teas
7 African nation
14 Polluted
20 Baltimore ballplayer
21 Post-divorce payments
22 More tightly drawn
23 Trial prints
24 Gestures
25 Product-pitching price
26 Magazine since 1888
29 Blind — bat
32 Ejected magma
33 In — land (spaced out)
34 "Haystacks" painter
35 Pennysaver alternative
40 Feels sorry about
42 Regal crown
43 Kids' game
44 Sci-fi visitors
45 Decorative jug
49 Lowdown
50 Mexican War battle cry
56 Skinny
57 SATs, e.g.
58 Abbr. on a tow truck
59 Line of words to a song
60 Jocular Johnson
61 Mining shaft
62 Onassis's nickname
63 Big galoot
65 With 87-Across, she's famous for frozen seafood
66 Taft doctrine
72 — out (barely make)
75 Tincture
76 Equip for war
77 Women's —
78 Followers: Suffix
82 Shaping machine
84 Actress — Sara
85 Carolers' songs
87 See 65-Across
88 What a poorly paid person might live on
92 Funeral pile
93 Kournikova of tennis
94 "You've got mail" co.
95 Record producer Brian
96 Singer — Marie
97 — vu
99 German physicist for whom a frequency unit is named
104 Suspicious
107 Read quickly
109 — -do-well
110 Japanese sauce
111 Theme of this puzzle
117 Actress Lansbury
118 Turin tongue
119 Bandage up
123 Awakens
124 Flowerlike ornament
125 Yule tree decoration
126 Jose's party
127 Very low-quality
128 Curls the lip

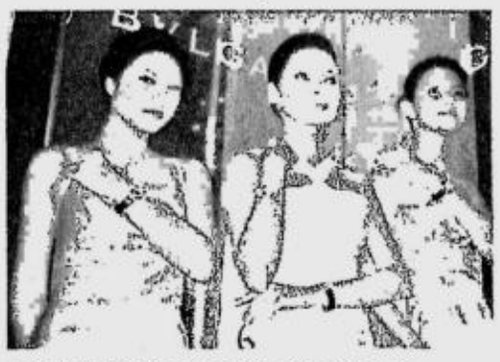
DOWN
1 Short trip
2 Be fallible
3 — Grande
4 Great asset
5 Friend of Spanky
6 Anne Rice vampire
7 Pago Pago native
8 North Carolina university
9 Naldi or Talbot
10 Disney's "— and the Detectives"
11 Internet search aid
12 Strengthen
13 Disinfectant brand
14 Russia's — -Tass
15 Tussaud's title
16 Not by accident
17 Beehive State native
18 Tether anew
19 Put up
27 — League
28 Brooks of country
29 Chief Hun
30 Black eye
31 PLO's Yasir
36 De-pleated?
37 List bit
38 Rotating engine parts
39 Cold War spy org.
41 Work with
44 Greek vowel
46 Kindhearted
47 Arab ruler
48 Big mythical birds
50 Answer
51 Banish
52 Spy — Hari
53 Lawman Wyatt
54 Part of RR
55 A Baldwin
62 Intend
63 Miss by —
64 Schlitz brewer
67 Lofty poems
68 Precipitate
69 Tow
70 Fashionable Cassini
71 "Yay!"
72 Hostess Maxwell
73 Madeline of movies
74 School on the Thames
79 Football great Gale
80 Become
81 Squalid
83 Turban, e.g.
84 Bag thickness
85 Senator Sam
86 Fragrance
89 — Mahal
90 Barbecue
91 Andrews Sisters' "— Mir Bist Du Schon"
96 Added as a bonus
98 Small decorative hole
99 — Hills (city near Toronto)
100 Crate up
101 More pointless
102 Period of 100 yrs.
103 Stickups
104 Winter wrap
105 Capital of Vietnam
106 Quarrel
108 Nile port
112 Skylab org.
113 Corrida calls
114 Goalie's glove
115 — -cake (tot's game)
116 Sensible
120 Communist Mao — -tung
121 That female
122 Trains overhead



answer on page E4



DIGNITARIES: Italian Ambassador Rubens Anna Fedele, Zenaida Tantoco,Sen. Jamby Madrigal Valade, Spanish Ambassador Ignacio Sagaz, Patrick Jacinto



BULGARI ladies modeling the Rosette Collection

WATCH out for Nini Licaros, Mario Katigbak and Sea Princess.

YOUNG urbanites Genevieve Ruais, Lauro Baja, Grace Baja and Ricky Delgado

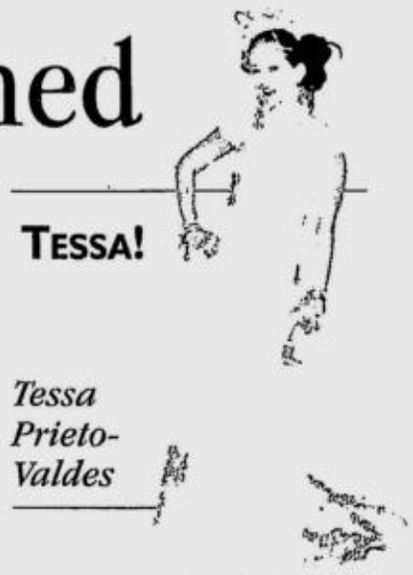
Family jewels, both real and imagined

My vast collection of sparklers actually comes from the different faux jewelers and accessory makers all over the Philippines

LUTZ and Alexandra Kunack

DAVID and Marilu Batchelor

SAPPHIRE Room architects, Shang VP and GM Philippe Caretti and Joy Wassmer



TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

THE MAIN predicament I have when it comes to accessorizing for luxury jewelry launches is finding the proper pieces to wear. The only real gems I possess are my engagement and wedding rings, both from my dear husband **Dennis**. My vast collection of sparklers actually comes from the different faux jewelers and accessory makers all over the Philippines.

After the birth of my first daughter, **Annika**, I sort of made a personal commitment to start buying real jewelry, so that I would have something of real value that I could pass on to my daughters. Eight years and a second daughter later, what we still refer to when we say "the family jewels" are what my husband's undies protect and support.

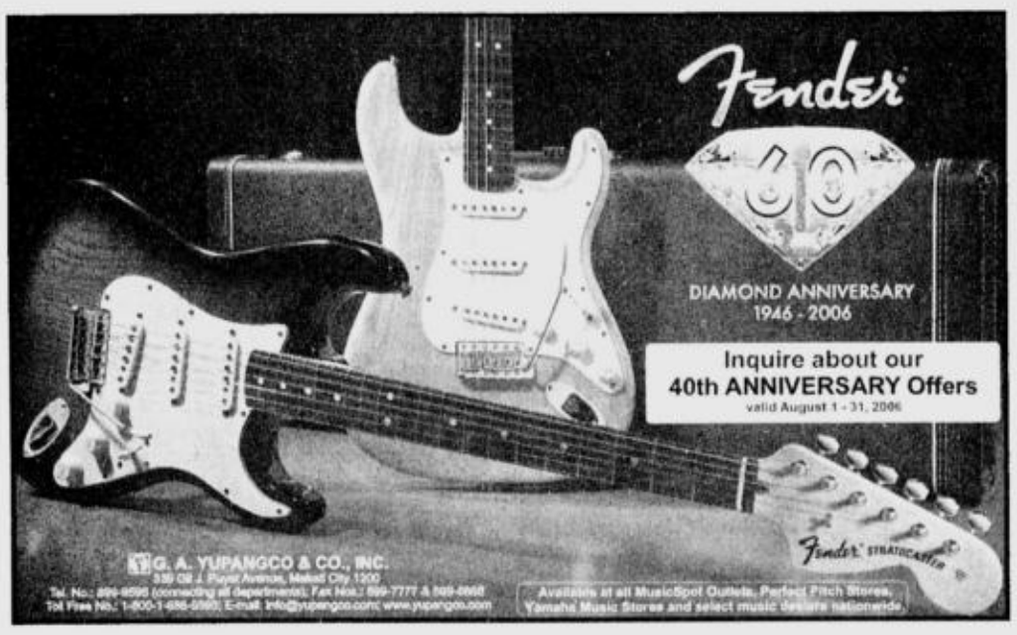
In fact, the contents of my safe range from passports to the kids' baby teeth, but not carats and timepieces. Last year, my authentic ring collection grew by one, thanks to a Bulgari birthday ring from Dennis. Although he has quite an excellent eye for jewelry, he feels more confident when Bulgari top man **Mario Katigbak** is there to give his expert advice. It's great to have a second opinion, especially for guys who don't know much about finding the right piece but would like to send the message of love across.

A good rule of thumb might be that the quantity of love is directly proportional to the size of the stone. But with Mario around, you can be guided more on quality rather than just sheer carats.

Of all the contemporary luxury jewelry shows, Bulgari always presents the most impressive events, with Mario attending to all the detailed elements—from the placement of the jewelry and its classic icon locations to the flower arrangements, the models' designer outfits, the sumptuous menu and even the cocktail drinks. The signature ingredient of his parties is the overflowing sparkling bubbly, from Moet & Chandon of course, and to those in search of something smoother, bottomless glasses of Belvedere Vodka.

Yearly, he manages to transform different locations into stylish venues for Bulgari to pre-

FAMILY/ E3



ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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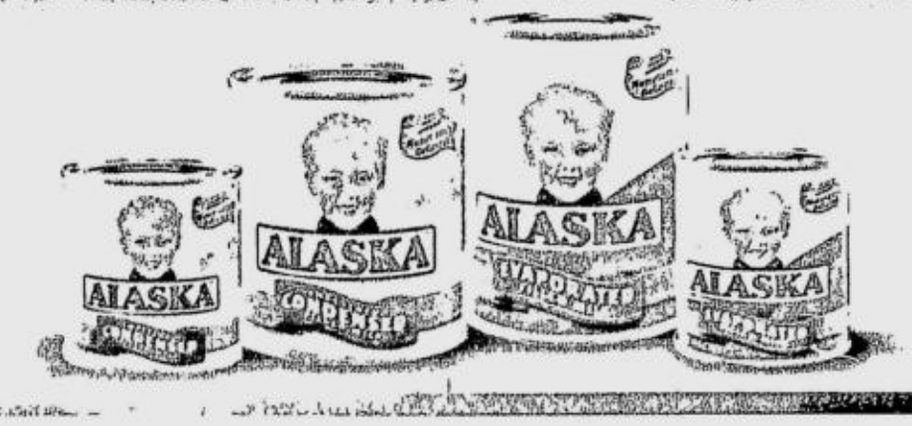

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Regal woos young turks

Mother Lily says they deliver quality but 'don't go overboard'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

REGAL FILMS PRODUCERS Lily Monteverde and daughter Roselle Monteverde-Teo have been very vocal about the fact that young filmmakers are now in charge of most of the projects of the 45-year-old film company.

In the past six months, Regal has been working with new and/or young directors—Rahyan Carlos ("Pamahiin"), Jeff Tan ("White Lady"), Mark Reyes ("Eternity"), Jun Lana ("Gigil") and Mike Tuviera ("TXT").

Erik Matti is also cooking up projects with Reality Pictures, a company he set up with fellow director Chito Roño and Monteverde's son Dondon. In the works are horror-fantasy films under Matti and Roño, as well as under Joven Tan ("Binibining K"), Topel Lee and Richard Somes. Tan is working on a love story, his follow-up to his debut "White Lady."

Three of the four Regal entries in this year's Metro Manila Film Festival are megged by young turks: Quark Henares ("Super Noypi"), Lana ("Mano Po 5: Gua Ai Di") and Henares-Tuviera-Carlos ("Shake, Rattle & Roll 8"). Among the MMFF entries, only "Zsazsa Zaturnnah" is directed by a veteran, Joel Lamangan.

Monteverde clarifies that Regal is not shutting out senior directors. "Whether veteran or new, they're all good. It's just that they have different approaches."

Monteverde says the edge of young directors is that they're "adept in using digital technology and they really go for the bottom line. They can come up with quality films without going overboard. They're very hands-on."

Teo explains: "For example, Joel Laman-

REGAL/ F2

INSIDE

Zsazsa: I look like a showgirl /F6

Luke Wilson, his bro's own 'Dupree/G4

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Jay-R-Borgy tiff: 'A guy thing'

By Nini Valera

SINGER JAY-R AND MARCOS SCION Borgy Manotoc, who figured in a bar room brawl recently, have patched up their differences.

The two bumped into each other—and shook hands—during the birthday party of former MTV VJ Sara Meir on Wednesday night at the Embassy Bar at the Fort in Taguig City, scene of the reported fistfight.

"It was nothing like a fight," Jay-R told INQUIRER Entertainment on Thursday. "It was more of a misunderstanding—a guy thing."

Jay-R said he was the first to extend his hand to Borgy, who took it graciously. The singer also shook hands with Ornusa Cadness, Borgy's girlfriend.

"I've never really gotten into a fight with anybody," said Jay-R. He was reported to have had an altercation with a Korean in another bar. "That never happened," he stressed.

What's happening?

He wondered about negative write-ups about him lately in tabloids. "I'm working most of the time," he said. I don't even have time to hang out. When I'm not busy, I stay home and work in my studio."

A product endorser—for Bench, Colgate, Sun Cellular, Tropicana, and Unisilver—Jay-R, 25, said he couldn't afford a bad boy image.

"My parents taught me to never disrespect anyone, to be good all the time. I really don't understand it. I walk down the street and I hear comments that I'm *mayabang*. And I'm just walking."

His manager, Arnold Vegafria, explained, "Jay-R grew up in the US, so his attitude is very Western. He's also very confident, and people could be misinterpreting his confidence as *yabang*."

"Maybe [that's true]," Jay-R agreed. "But I understand Filipino culture because even in the US we're still Filipinos. We speak in Tagalog. I eat *kare-kare* and *ampalaya*. I can't point to cultural differences. I don't know what's happening [exactly], but I don't like it."

Jay-R claimed he didn't even feel fa-

JAY-R-BORGY/ F2

Regal woos young . . .

From page F1

gan and Mark Reyes are so experienced they don't go beyond their allocation of film stock. Other directors, however, cannot control their use of film stock. That's why we encourage them to use high-definition (HD) digital camera instead, so that they will not be limited in their shots."

"Pamahin" and "White Lady" were shot on HD, Teo says. "These digital movies were blown up to film. There was a lot of color-grading and special effects involved, so it's not necessarily inexpensive. Rent of the HD camera is P50,000 to P60,000 a day. Blowing it up costs more than a million."

ROSELLE: Passion for filmmaking

MOTHER LILY: Bottom line

Teo reveals she hit it off with the new filmmakers because "we have the same objective. We are all passionate about making movies." Moreover, she says the new directors "are excited about their craft and constantly come up with fresh ideas."

Teo also commends them for "concentrating on their movies, from pre-production to post-production."

"The directors I work with are very detailed," she says. "They go through the script with a fine-toothed comb. They prepare storyboards. Quark, in fact, came up with animated storyboards for 'Super Noypi.' The process is called animatics."

Jay-R-Borgy . . .

From page F1

mous. "Sometimes, during shows, I feel I'm famous. "But in daily life, I don't feel all that popular."

If tons of adoring young girls are an indication of fame, 'then the dude is indeed famous.

High goals

In any case, he said he never let that go to his head.

"I talk to everybody, not just the girls. I talk to *sampaguita* vendors. The *sampaguita* vendors in Greenhills all know me," the singer said.

"I've always wished for popularity," he admitted, "but I never dreamed it would happen [this way]—records, shows. When I came here, my goal was high—I wanted to have a platinum album."

His first album, "Gameface," released by Universal Records in 2004, has turned double platinum; his second, "Jay-R," has gone platinum.

Best friend

Last year, Jay-R encouraged his friend Kris Lawrence, also a Fil-Am, to try his luck here as well. Both were students at the St. Genevive High School in Panorma City, California.

When Kris won the "Search for Star in a Million," Jay-R was one of the happiest persons in the audience.

The two currently share a flat with yet another Fil-Am musician, Jimmy Muna.

"After Kris won, I told him it was time he paid rent," Jay-R said, laughing. "It's funny. We compete in our music, in the hats that we wear ... but we do borrow each other's hats."

Their competition is far from a rivalry.

"We're the best of friends," said Jay-R. "The only time I get *pikon* (annoyed) is when he doesn't flush the toilet."

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2 MORTUARY
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 CLICK
5 SUKOB
6 KUBRADOR/AMERICAN DREAMZ
PREMIERE CINEMA
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2 SUKOB
3 STORMBREAKER
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2/ AMERICAN DREAMZ
5 SUKOB
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
7 MIAMI VICE
8 OH MY GHOST
9 RESERVED
10 KUBRADOR
11 CLICK
12 MORTUARY

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 MIAMI VICE
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 CLICK
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
6 MORTUARY
7 STORMBREAKER
8 KUBRADOR
9 OH MY GHOST
10 SUKOB
11 AMERICAN DREAMZ
12 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 MIAMI VICE
4 MORTUARY
5 CLICK
6 OH MY GHOST
7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
9 SUKOB
10 STORMBREAKER
11 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
12 ANT BULLY

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 CLICK
3 MORTUARY
4 OH MY GHOST
5 SUKOB
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 MIAMI VICE
8 STORMBREAKER
9 AMERICAN DREAMZ
10 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
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2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 CLICK
4 MORTUARY
5 OH MY GHOST
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2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 MORTUARY
5 OH MY GHOST
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 RESERVED
8 STORMBREAKER
9 AMERICAN DREAMZ

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1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 OH MY GHOST
3 CLICK
4 SUKOB

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 MORTUARY
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 STORMBREAKER
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11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
12 OH MY GHOST

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2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
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No hard feelings

Nyoy plans to visit his ex-manager 'soon'

By Marinel R. Cruz

NYOY VOLANTE SAYS THERE ARE NO hard feelings between him and Hanzel Villafuerte, even after he chose not to renew his contract with the talent manager's 7003 Dynamix Production.

But the singer admits he has not spoke to Villafuerte since his release fro namix on June 8.

"We're fine," Nyoy told INQUIRER Ente ment on Thursday. "Both of us are just busy right now. I plan to go to his office soon and invite him to lunch."

In an earlier interview, Villafuerte told INQUIRER that Nyoy had asked to be released from his contract with Dynamix to be able to continue working with Vicor Records. Villafuerte is reportedly at odds with Vicor president Steven Tan.

Nyoy's version is that he simply chose not to renew the contract, which expired on March 15. He is now under Papa Productions, his parents' talent management group, and is set to release his fourth album under Vicor in September.

"This new setup is very convenient for me. I grew closer to my parents. They weren't involved in my career before. Now, they know where I am, they go with me whenever they're needed. They didn't even have to quit their day jobs; they were able to t everything into their schedules."

TAKE FIVE

Aug. 26, Nyoy will perform at the Rock Café in Makati for the first time vo years. A source close to Nyoy said the musician was banned from performing at Hard Rock two years ago due to a misunderstanding between its management and Villafuerte.

In a recent press conference, Nyoy denied this: "I couldn't make the rounds of bars because my group focused on provincial shows. I was never banned [in Hard Rock]. In fact, whenever Nina (his girlfriend) has shows here, I come and jam with her."

NYOY Volante

What lessons did you learn about relationships with talent managers?

I learned to just always give my best. When I was with Hanzel, I gave it 100 percent. I guess I did something right because despite I'm still around.

Any backlash? Your former manager negotiated everything for you.

Every chance we get, we inform everyone that I'm now with Papa Productions. The bar owners have been very gracious. *Hindi nila masyadong pinapalaki.* Even the members of my band members (Nyoy Volante JAMS) are very happy. They have no complaints. We're pretty tight. We're more like a family. They joined me when I left Dynamix, except for saxophonist John Ray, who is still with Hanzel. He's going solo now. We're happy for him.

Which crowd do you expect to come for the forthcoming show?

Hard Rock regulars are all music enthusiasts. You have to really know what you're doing.

And what can they expect?

We have a new member in place of John Ray—Juliet Perez, our violinist. She's very good. The group is very excited. We have new arrangements. When Juliet joined us, our sound became mellower. I like it. I think, finally, this is the sound we've been looking for.

'Desperate' interview cited online

FEEDBACK

From Peg Eary (meary@tampabay.rr.com), Florida, USA:

Dear Mr. Ruben Nepales,

I regularly read you column. I just want to say that your interview with Marc Cherry and Marcia Cross was cited in an MSN Web site column.

Keep up the good work.

From Maria Cristina Javier (mcjavier@scif.com), San Francisco, California:

Hi Ruben,

Just want to let you know how much I enjoyed your article about Marcia Cross and your description of her smile as "conspiratorial" was, I thought, dead on. I'm not sure if you are aware that your question regarding Barbara Walters asking about her sexuality is creating quite a buzz on the Internet.

I am a huge fan of Marcia Cross's and Eva Longoria's. I know that this is your second time to interview them and I am very jealous you've met them in person. I live in San Francisco but often go to LA, where I used to live, to visit friends.

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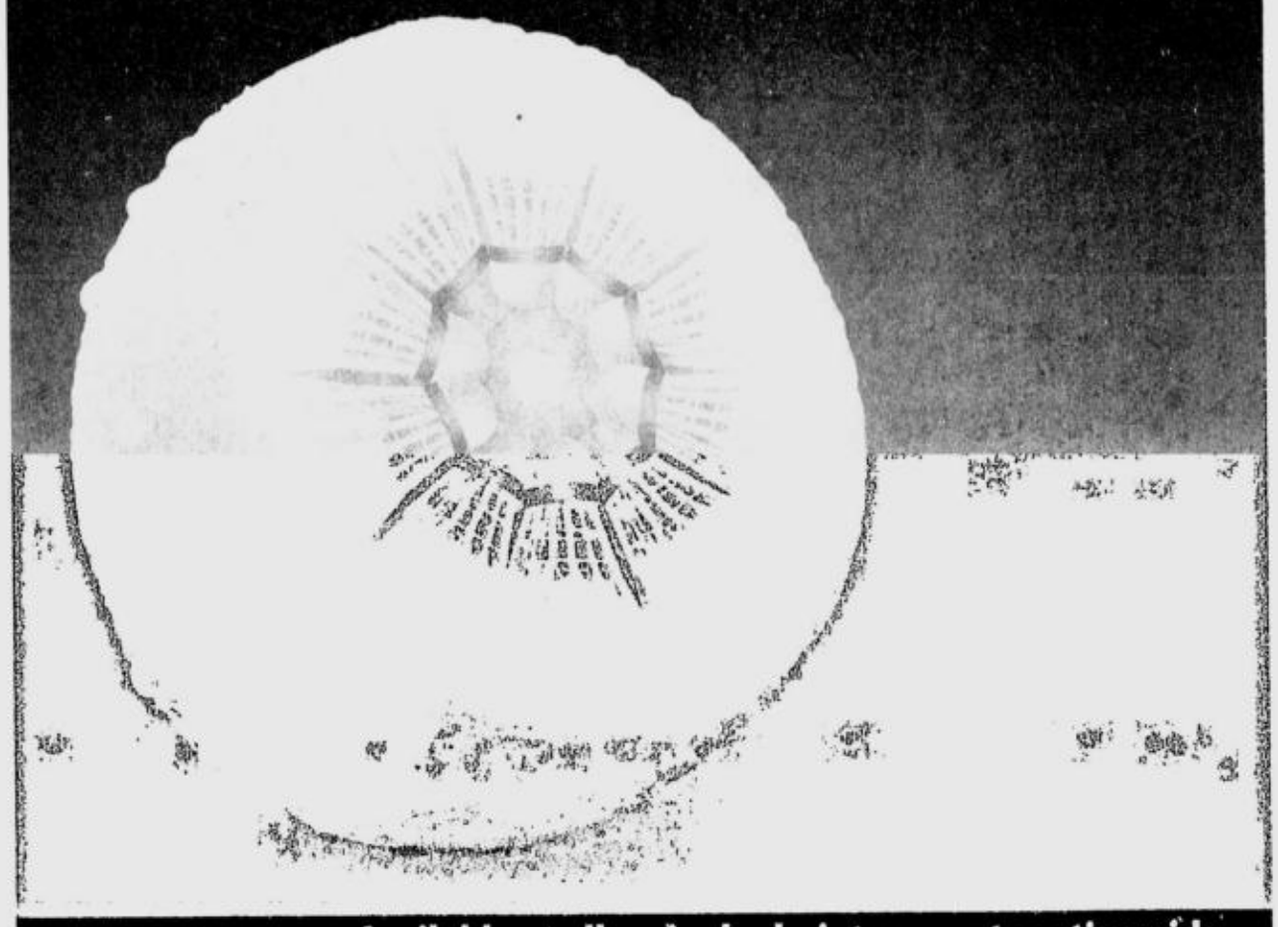

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2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
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3 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50

4 KUBRADOR
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5 OH MY GHOST!
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 VICTORY

7 MORTUARY
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8 AMERICAN DREAMZ
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9 MIAMI VICE
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6 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
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7 OH MY GHOST!
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METRO EAST

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
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2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
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3 STORMBREAKER
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5 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
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8 OH MY GHOST!
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1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 MORTUARY
3 OH MY GHOST!
4 SUKOB

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1 SUKOB
2 CLICK
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 AMERICAN DREAMZ
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4 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

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August 21 and 22

MTRCB Rating: PG13

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2 CLICK
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4 SUKOB

1 THE ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 OH MY GHOST!

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4 SUKOB

1 CLICK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 OH MY GHOST!
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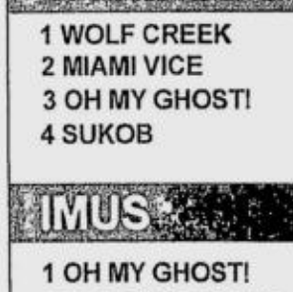
1 THE BREAK-UP
2 CLICK
3 OH MY GHOST
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 SUKOB
6 TAMARA

1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST!
3 THE BREAK-UP
4 JUST MY LUCK



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1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 CLICK
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT-2
STORMBREAKER
4 AMERICAN DREAMZ

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ANT BULLY

CINEMA 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
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1 CLICK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 OH MY GHOST

Starmall
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 SUKOB
4 OH MY GHOST
5 BUTTERFLY EFFECT-2

metropolis star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 OH MY GHOST
2 SUKOB
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 MORTUARY

THEATRES
1 JUST MY LUCK
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
OH MY GHOST
CLICK
RESERVED
RESERVED

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 SUKOB
2 MIAMI VICE
3 CLICK
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 BUTTERFLY EFFECT-2
6 AMERICAN DREAMZ
7 MORTUARY
8 STORMBREAKER/PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN-2
9 KUBRADOR
10 OH MY GHOST

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 SUKOB
2 OH MY GHOST
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 SUKOB
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 OH MY GHOST
4 AMERICAN DREAMZ
5 KUBRADOR

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 THE BREAK UP
2 STORMBREAKER
3 UNITED 93
4 RESERVED

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1 OH MY GHOST
2 MORTUARY
3 SUKOB

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1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 CLICK

Jade Cinema
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1 SUKOB
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 THE BREAK UP
4 OH MY GHOST

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SUKOB
2 ANT BULLY

CINEMAS
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2 CLICK
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT-2

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1 SUKOB
2 OH MY GHOST
3 ANT BULLY
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 SUKOB
2 ANT BULLY
3 OH MY GHOST
4 TAKE THE LEAD

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 ANT BULLY
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 OH MY GHOST
2 ANT BULLY
3 SUKOB
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 JUST M Y LUCK / ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 OH MY GHOST

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2 OH MY GHOST

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1 TAMARA
2 WILD ORCHIDS

Lianas Cinema
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1 WOLF CREEK
2 MULATA
3 LIGAYA PANTASYA NG BAYAN
4 WILD ORCHIDS

Lianas MovieCity
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1 ANT BULLY
2 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
3 TAMARA
4 SUKOB
5 OH MY GHOST

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(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 TAMARA
2 ANT BULLY
3 OH MY GHOST
4 SUKOB

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 OH MY GHOST
2 ZEX & ZEN UNTOLD STORY

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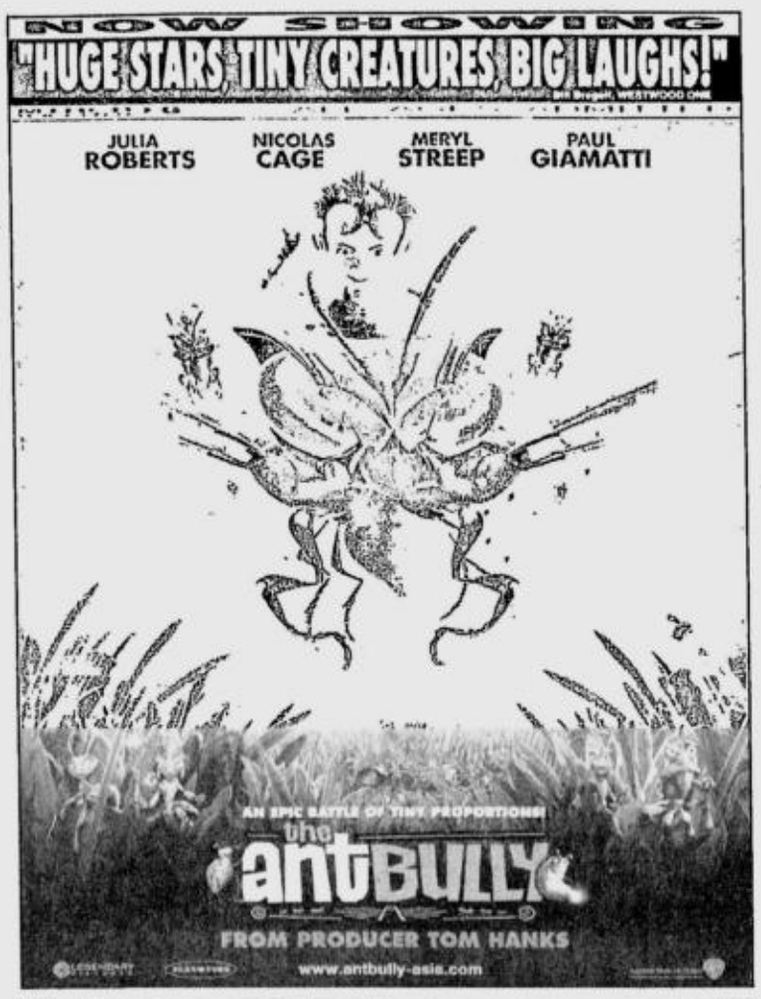
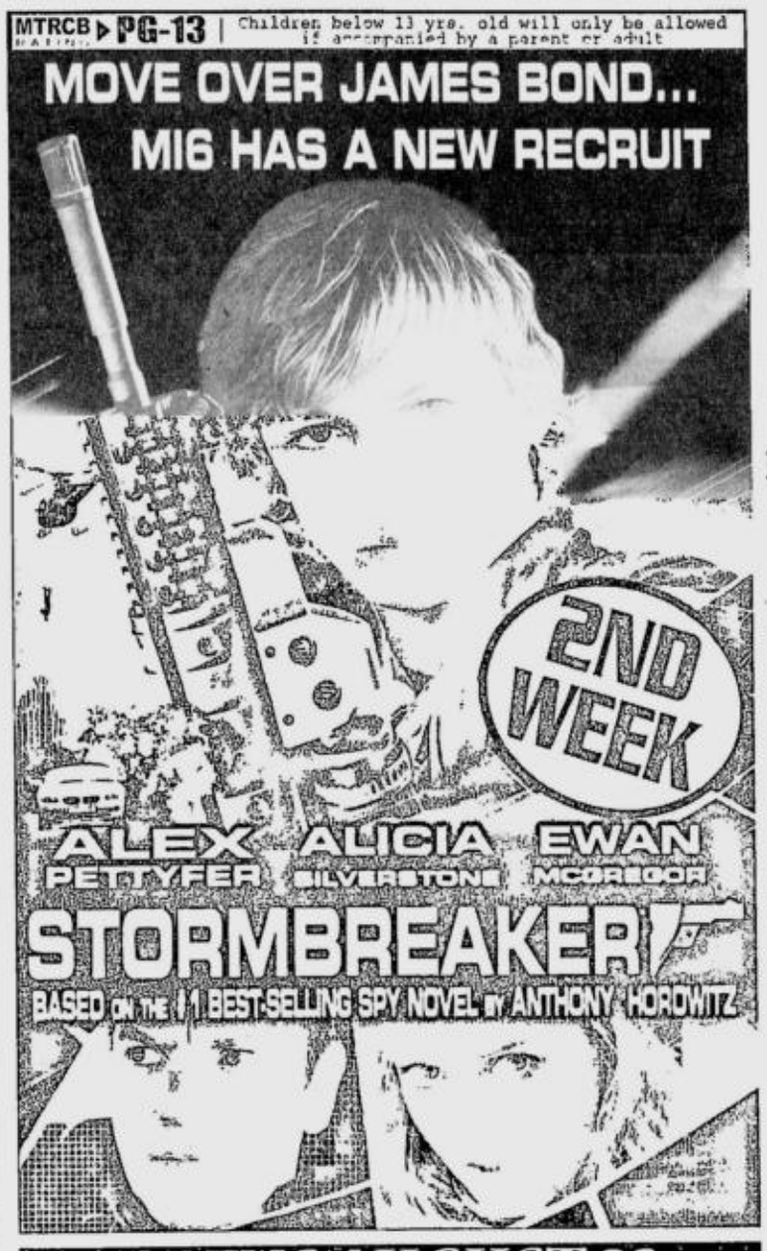
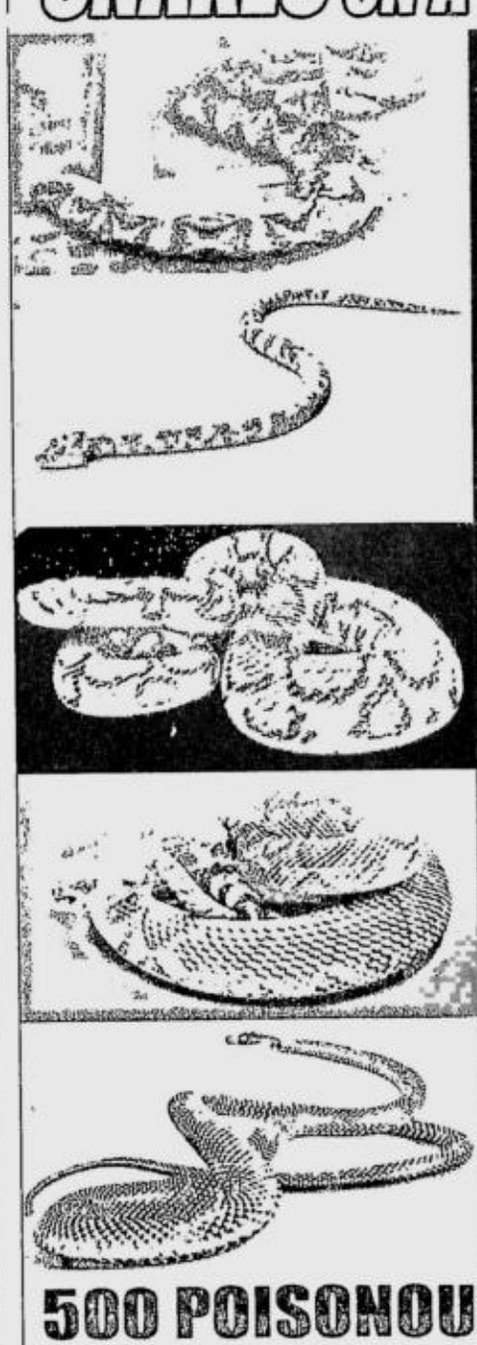




OPENS AUGUST 23

THE DEADLY SNAKES OF 'SNAKES ON A PLANE'



PIT VIPER
Named for their pits, these vipers can seek out warm-blooded preys easily.

PORTHIDIUM
Highly poisonous, their venom instantly kills their prey on contact.

RAINBOW BOA
Native to Peru, this constrictor causes more human fatalities than sickness in a year.

RATTLESNAKE
Bites are deadly with fangs that inject large amounts of venom.

SPECKLED RACER
Fast-moving with unpredictable biting speed, it can inflict a deep venomous wound.

500 POISONOUS SNAKES
30,000 FEET IN THE AIR
DO NOT PANIC !

'Live to Play, Play to Live'

ON SEPT. 9, 6:30 P.M., AT THE ROCKWELL Tent, Gary V will perform in "Live to Play, Play to Live," with the Philippine Youth Symphonic Band for the graduating batch 2006 Philippine School of Interior Design and the PYSB's continued rehearsals fund.

PYSB is a non-profit organization established in 1978 to educate and mentor young musicians. The band is a wind and brass ensemble made up of dedicated and disciplined talents ranging from 7 to 22 years of age.

Visit www.ticketworld.com.ph, or call 891-9999. Tickets are also available at National Bookstore and Starbucks Power Plant.

Indie dance fest

The first-ever "Wi Fi Body: Independent Contemporary Dance Festival" of the World Dance Alliance-Philippines Choreographers' Network concludes today at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The festival showcases landmark pieces of independent dance companies and choreographers who have been producing and creating exciting, innovative work in contemporary dance.

It is presented by the Cultural Center of the Philippines and supported by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Today's shows are "Crossing Borders" by the Chameleon Dance Theatre, "Over 35 and Dancing" and "Order for Masks" by Myra Beltran's Dance Forum, "Wi fi Body Gala" with guests Douglas Nierras' Powerdance, James la Forteza with Steps Dance Studio, Kahayag Dance and Theatre Co. from Mindanao, and other guests.

Call CCP, 832-1125, 832-3681 or 832-3704.

Star City-gazing

Loyal followers of Star City spent an afternoon stargazing recently as Starstruck winners Mike Tan, LJ Reyes, Benj Pacia and Krizzy Jareno got together for meet-and-greet sessions, autograph signing and a mini concert.

Star City's "Ride with the Stars" promo continues today with Rainier Castillo and Yasmien Kurdi; and on Aug. 27 with Mark Herras and Jennylyn Mercado..

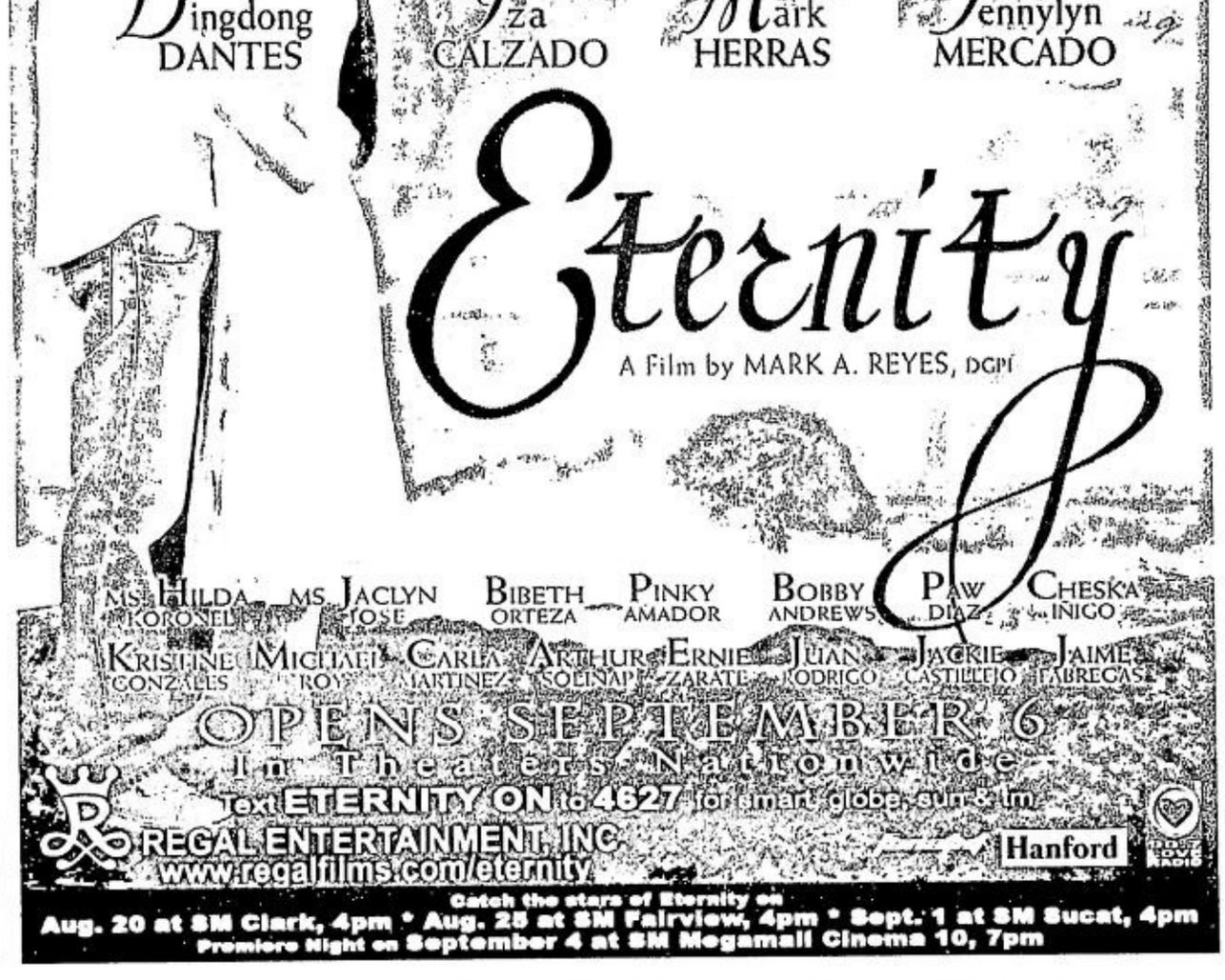
STAR CITY is open from 4 p.m. onwards on Fridays and 1 p.m. onwards on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets are P40 for entrance and P190 for Ride-All-You-Can tags.

SHOW TIME

Sponge Cola nationwide

Sponge Cola's new single will be simultaneously played by radio stations nationwide on Aug. 23, 7 a.m.

"Bitiw," carrier single from the band's brand-new album, "Transit," from Universal Records, will be heard on Jam 88.3, Magic 89.9, RX 93.1, LS 97.1, 99.5 RT and K-Lite 103.5 in Metro Manila; Killerbee, Hot FM and Wild FM in Cebu; Mix FM Radio, UR 97, Monster Radio and Killerbee in Davao; Wild FM and Killerbee in Cagayan de Oro; Killerbee in Bacolod; Z-100 and Radio One in Iloilo. Sponge Cola is Yael Yuzon (lead vocals and guitar), Gosh Dilay (bass), Erwin "Armo" Armovit (lead guitar) and Chris Cantada (vocals and drums).



glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB1 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 CLICK	2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	3 MORTUARY	4 OH MY GHOST!
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 SUKOB	2 FREEDOMLAND	3 THX CLICK 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 AMERICAN DREAMZ	5 KUBRADOR	6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	7 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 CLICK		2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX CLICK 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 FREEDOMLAND 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 AMERICAN DREAMZ 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 MIAMI VICE 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND		2 AMERICAN DREAMZ	
	3 CLICK	4 THE ANT BULLY / SUKOB	5 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	2 MIAMI VICE	3 WOLFCREEK	4 CLICK
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND		2 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2	
	3 AMERICAN DREAMZ	4 OH MY GHOST!	5 SUKOB	

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Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272: from 10am to 8pm; Greenbelt - 752 4853: from 11am to 12mn; Alabang Town Center - 842 2782: from 10am to 8pm; Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324; Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Ansons Exhibit August 7 to 22, 2006	Cirque Imago August 18 to 20
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
5th Philippines Robotics Olympiad August 26, 2006	PBA Draft August 20, 2006

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August 16, 23 & 30, 2006

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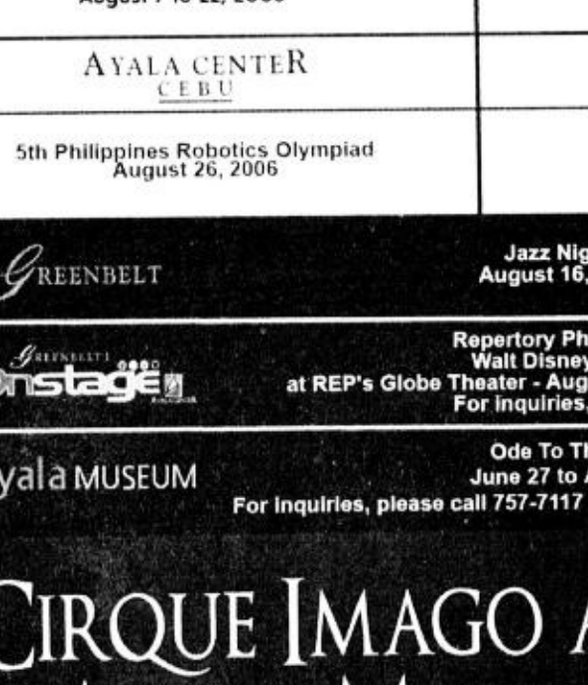
Ayala MUSEUM — Ode To The Pasig River
June 27 to August 27, 2006
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

CIRQUE IMAGO AT AYALA MALLS



Ayala Malls

See the world-renowned acrobatic group, Cirque Imago as they perform never before seen stunts, only at the Ayala Malls:

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August 26-27 • 11am, 3pm and 6pm
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August 19-20 • 11am, 3pm and 6pm
Customer Service Hotline: 842-2782, 772-1860

Ayala Center Cebu
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August 12-13 • 11am, 3pm and 6pm
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Market! Market!
Activity Center
August 22-24 • 3pm and 6 pm
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7519

glorietta TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET!

Zsazsa on being Zaturnnah: I look like a showgirl

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STORM BREAKER PG13	THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 PG13 1:35,3:45,5:55, 8:05,10:15	AMERICAN DREAMZ PG13 1:35,3:50,6:05, 8:20,10:30
CLICK PG13 1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00	MORTUARY R13 1:25,3:35,5:45, 7:55,10:05	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND R13 1:35,3:45,5:55, 8:05,10:15

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41
MATINEE PHP 111.00 – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – MONDAY-FRIDAY

NOW SHOWING
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8 reasons why this is the must-see movie of the year!

1. Know the truth about *jueteng*, the illegal numbers game.
2. GINA PAREÑO gives the best performance of her career.
3. JEFFREY JETURIAN directs the best movie of his career.
4. It was the unanimous choice of the FIPRESCI, the international film critics body, as Best Film in Competition at the 28th Moscow International Film Festival and the 8th OSIAN Cine Fan Festival of Asian Cinema. in New Delhi, India.
5. It won Best Picture and Best Actress at the 8th OSIAN Cine Fan Festival of Asian Cinema.
6. The Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB) graded it A, the 1st for 2006.
7. It is officially selected to screen in the 50th London Film Festival, 51st Valladolid International Film Festival, 31st Toronto International Film Festival, 11th Pusan International Film Festival, 20th Hawaii International Film Festival, 30th Sao Paulo International Film Festival, 25th Vancouver International Film Festival, 33rd Brussels Independent Film Festival, 27th Thessaloniki International Film Festival, 6th Mumbai Asian Film Festival, 7th Rome Asiatica Film Mediale and then 2nd Antalya Eurasian Film Festival
8. It is YOUR story.

CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD GRADED A

MLR Films presents
BEKING KUBRADOR
GINA PARENO
a film by JEFFREY JETURIAN
R-13

OPENS AUGUST 23
THE DEADLY SNAKES OF 'SNAKES ON A PLANE'

CORAL SNAKE
Secretes venom that paralyzes the nerves of its victims.

HONDURAN GREEN EYELASH VIPER
Has large hypodermic needle-like fangs that poisons its prey.

GREEN MAMBA
The most dreaded snake species in Africa.

GREEN TREE PYTHON
A venomous snake with fangs and a bad attitude.

PINK MAMBA
A close relative to the black and green mamba with the same venomous attributes.

500 POISONOUS SNAKES
30,000 FEET IN THE AIR
DO NOT PANIC !

Rushes

Idol vs. Academy

ABC 5 has "informed" ABS-CBN that two of the contestants in the latter's "Pinoy Dream Academy," Czarina Rosales and Margarita Saludo, signed waivers when they tried out for the former's "Philippine Idol"—which bar them from joining similar contests until 2007.

"PDA" director Laurenti Dyogi says he has turned the matter over to the network's legal staff.

Headmaster Apo

SPEAKING of "PDA," Dyogi also informed Rushes that former Apo Jim Paredes would be head "master" on the show.

From the pro

WATCH other bands, but remain true to yourself.

This was the advice of Rivermaya front man Rico Blanco to members of Globe Kantabataan's (www.kantabataan.com.ph) five finalist-bands.

"Focus on your music instead of second-guessing the market," he said.

Rivermaya met with the musicians during the competition's last workshop before the grand championships on Aug. 27.

The contending groups are 7th Skool, Footprint, Jylz, DROP d and Ichthus.

As for performing on stage, Rico told them: "Setting the mood is up to you. If you are confident, people will feel it and will have fun with you."

Cycle 5

THE FIFTH season of "American's Next Top Model starts tomorrow on Channel V (7 p.m., replay Aug. 28).

Tyra Banks, who conceptualized and developed the show, describes this round as the "bling" season. One of the members of the panel of experts is ... Twiggy, fashion icon in the 1960s, who replaces Janice Dickinson.

He sees grass

LOS ANGELES—Prosecutors last week charged Oscar-nominated actor Haley Joel Osment, who famously saw dead people in 1999 hit movie "The Sixth Sense," with drunken driving and marijuana possession.

Osment, 18, faces up to six months in jail if convicted. *Reuters*

"Just being"

NEW YORK— Jennifer Aniston and Vince Vaughn engaged? Don't be ridiculous, Aniston says.

The "Friends" actress told People magazine that reports of her engagement to the "Be Cool" actor, including an article in Us Weekly, are false, calling the stories "insane."

"I'm not engaged, and I don't have a ring, and I haven't been proposed to," Aniston, 37, told People. "We're just being." *AP*

"Sweeney" Depp

LOS ANGELES— Johnny Depp is going from woozy buccaneer to murderous barber.

Depp is reuniting with director Tim Burton ("Charlie and the Chocolate Factory") to play the title role in a film adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's musical "Sweeney Todd. *AP*

Non-cooperative

ANOTHER MMFF entry may back out due to uncooperative stars.

Another *komiks* series

ABS-CBN is eyeing a major star for the revival of another *komiks* classic. Details of the deal are being kept secret. Even the star heard it first from Rushes.

Guess who?

Guess who looks like Richard Gutierrez, more than Raymond? See pictures.

THAT'S DAD Eddie with the cowlick.

ZSAZSA PADILLA ON HER AND her co-stars' "ultra-sexy" "Zsazsa Zaturnnah" costumes: "With our colorful wigs, we look like the 'showgirls' in Club Mwah."

Which one? See pictures.

Again on Zsazsa: She reports that she emerged black-and-blue from the action scenes in the super-heroine caper, an entry in the Metro Manila Film Festival this December.

Still on Zsazsa: She watched the Black Eyed Peas at the Big Dome, daughters in tow. She has seen the group perform in Las Vegas, Dolphy in tow.

DOES Zsazsa mean Club Mwah's Reiko, (below)?

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND MTRCB R-13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
2 CLICK MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 MTRCB R-13 12:40, 3:00, 7:40 STORMBREAKER MTRCB PG-13 5:20, 10:00
4 AMERICAN DREAMZ MTRCB PG-13 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE ANT BULLY MTRCB GP 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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MONDAY AND TUESDAY SPECIALS (NOT APPLICABLE ON AUG 21)
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Specials last until Nov 14, 2006 See posters and flyers for details.
Per DTI NCR Permit No. A-060808 Series of 2006

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Shangri-La Plaza

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THEATRE-MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
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CINEMA 1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 10:40, 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:20 R-13
CINEMA 2 MORTUARY 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:20, 10:35 R-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a diversentertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 AMERICAN DREAMZ 10:30, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:35 PG-13
CINEMA 4 CLICK 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:20 PG-13
CINEMA 5 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 10:30, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10 R-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM
AUG. 17,18,24,25 & 31 GARY V 8:00PM
AUG. 26, 2006 NONOY ZUNIGA 8:00PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS
EVERY MONDAY DANCE NIGHT 7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY CERRUDO CLASSICO 8:00PM
AUG. 24-26, 2006 DAVID POMERANZ 9:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0636

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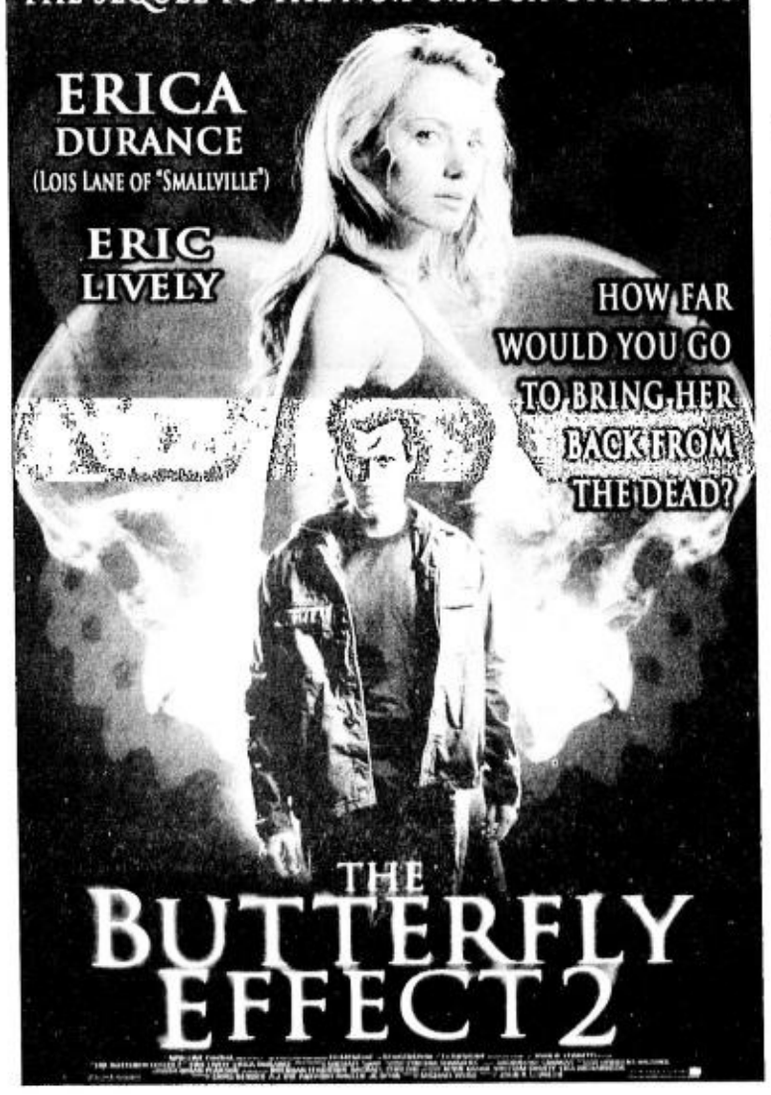
NOW SHOWING
THE SEQUEL TO THE NO.1 U.S. BOX-OFFICE HIT



THE ASPIRANTS on "America's Next Top Model, Cycle 5" (Channel V)

Roundup

Values education

LAGUNA recently launched its values education campaign with a symposium on child-sensitive media. It started in Pagsanjan Academy, recipient of a set of DVDs featuring the complete anime series penned by Anak TV for GMA 7.

Several schools in Manila and Cagayan de Oro have likewise received their sets at press time. Next in line are schools in Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Davao and Quezon City.

Interested schools may contact the secretary general of the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children and Television at anaktv@skyinet.net.

Wega launch

SHARON Cuneta was the main attraction in the Sony Sparkling Wega consumer launch in SM Megamall. She sang "To Love Again" and the title track of her album "Isn't It Romantic?"

Mega earlier recorded a special edition CD and DVD of "Isn't It Romantic?" It is a special giveaway with every purchase of Sparkling Wega.

'Roman Technology'

NATIONAL Geographic Channel presents a story of the collapse of the Roman Empire 1,500 years ago. but how much of its technology remains the blueprint for modern living.

"Roman Technology" airs tomorrow at 10 p.m. and on Aug. 24 at 11 p.m.

Korean wave

SKYCABLE brings Korea to the Philippines via the SkyCable Platinum MBC Pack, which offers a mix of popular Korean programs from the Munhwa Broadcasting Corp.

The pack includes popular soap operas, news broadcasts, dramas, variety shows, current affairs and cultural programs. These include: "Prince of Legend," a soap opera bsed on a folk hero; "My Lovely Soon," a romance; and "Jewel in the Palace," a romantic period telenovela.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2006

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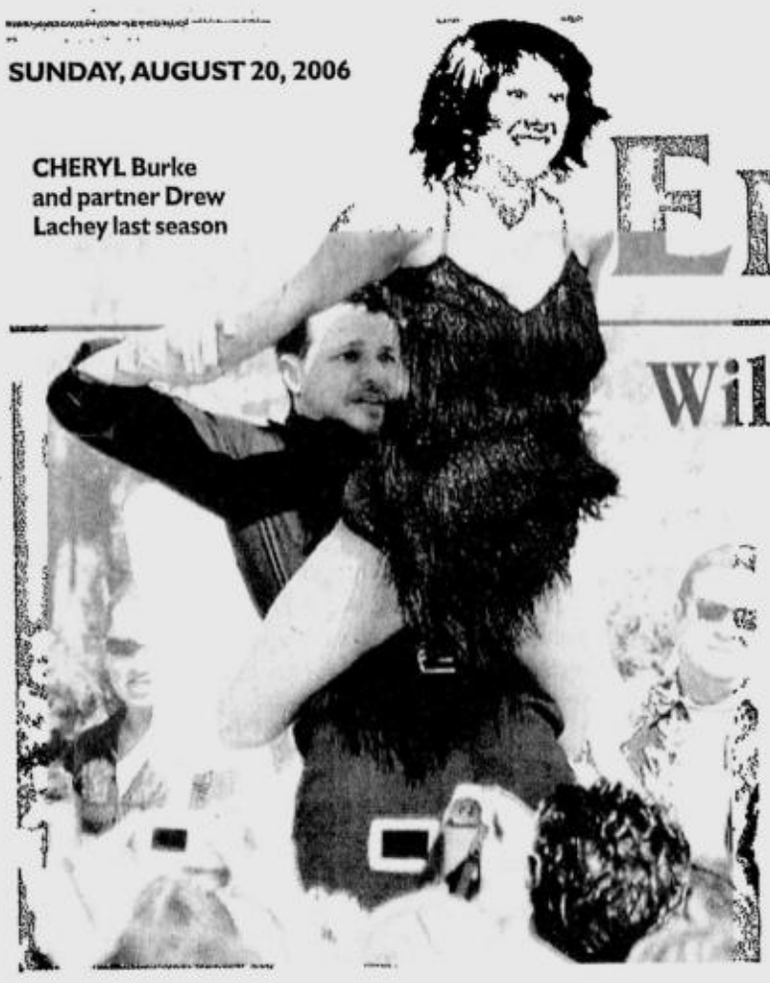

CHERYL Burke and partner Drew Lachey last season

Will Fil-Am Cheryl Burke win at the Emmys?

LOS ANGELES—Fil-Am **Cheryl Burke** will be back for the new season of ABC's surprise-hit show, "Dancing with the Stars," which begins on Sept. 12.

Drew Lachey and Cheryl were last season's champions. Cheryl's choreography of her competition numbers with the former 98 Degrees performer and younger brother of **Nick Lachey** was a big factor in the duo's triumph. In fact, the Fil-Am professional dancer is attending this Sunday's Emmy Awards because she was nominated twice in the choreography category for the numbers she created and danced with Drew, "Save a Horse, Ride a Cowboy" and "Thriller."

Cheryl told me that she was excited about attending the Emmy Awards at the Shrine Auditorium. She will wear a gown designed by **Kevyn Hall**. Cheryl's guest is her Novo Ecijana mom, **Sherri Burke**, who is probably more thrilled than her daughter.

In Season Three of "Dancing with the Stars," Cheryl will be paired with football Hall of Famer **Emmitt Smith**. The two are already hard at work, practicing several hours a day.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Other competing dancing "stars" are: actor **Harry Hamlin**, husband of last season's contestant **Lisa Rinna**; TV talk show hosts **Jerry Springer** and **Tucker Carlson**; actress **Vivica A. Fox** ("Kill Bill"); former teen idol **Joey Lawrence**, who now wants to be called **Joe Lawrence**; actress and beauty queen **Shanna Moakler**; actor and TV host **Mario Lopez**; singer **Willa Ford**; Disney Channel's "High School Musical" star **Monique Coleman**; and country music star **Sara Evans**.

Backside rentals

In a span of a few weeks, moviegoers saw the behind of **Luke** and **Owen Wilson** in their movies, "My Super Ex-Girlfriend" and "You, Me

WILL FIL-AM/ G4

Having It All

Some people want to live life on their own terms, get what they want, without any hassle. And who wouldn't? Imagine a buff body without having to work out. Or wearing those sexy four-inch stilettos without pinched toes and painful feet! Life would be so much better! In fact, it would be just like Coke Light-- all the great taste you love, and none of the calories you don't. You can have as much as you want without any worries!

In an alternate world where you could really have it all: there would be stolen kisses without getting slapped. You could shoot from the half-court line and not miss. Enjoy romantic movie without cheesy lines, and eat cheese popcorn without getting yellow fingers. You could enjoy the best of everything without any consequences.

Well perhaps you can't always get what you want. But you can definitely have it all with Coke Light. All pleasure, no guilt. This you can be sure of.

So grab a Coke Light now. It's the first step to having it all.

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no guilt.

great taste. no calories.
Have it ALL

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Relevant, lurid and forgotten 'Dreamz'

A timely commentary on entertainment and politics

MANDY Moore, real-life pop star, deftly plays the role of an overly ambitious talent show contestant.

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

"AMERICAN DREAMZ" WRYLY, and simultaneously, satirizes hit TV show "American Idol" and the American president—a timely commentary on the current state of interactive entertainment and political spins.

It submits that the two subjects have fabricated images in common: 1) contestants' lives are altered and made more dramatic to make "good TV"; 2) US President Staton's (Dennis Quaid) indecision and loss of confidence are constantly covered up by his advisers and writers. So it's actually clever, after not reporting for work for weeks after his recent reelection, that he attempts to mend his tarnished image by appearing as guest judge on the hit "American Dreamz" star search.

As with "American Idol," the casting process of contestants in the fictional show is arduous, but it draws out all kinds of wannabes. Its host, producer, and Simon Cowell-like judge Martin Tweed (Hugh Grant) wants the "freaks" in, since he believes they'll make another lively new season.

Token survivor

One such contestant is talented but overly ambitious—Sally Kendoo (deftly played by real pop singer Mandy Moore), who wants to be a star and not just "any idiot" who appears on TV. Another contestant, Omer (Sam Golzari)—an immigrant and secretly a bumbling terrorist recruit who loves show tunes—becomes the season's token survivor of war overseas.

"American Dreamz," despite tapping many characters from two different worlds, doesn't lose focus on its mix of fame-seekers, clods, and opportunists.

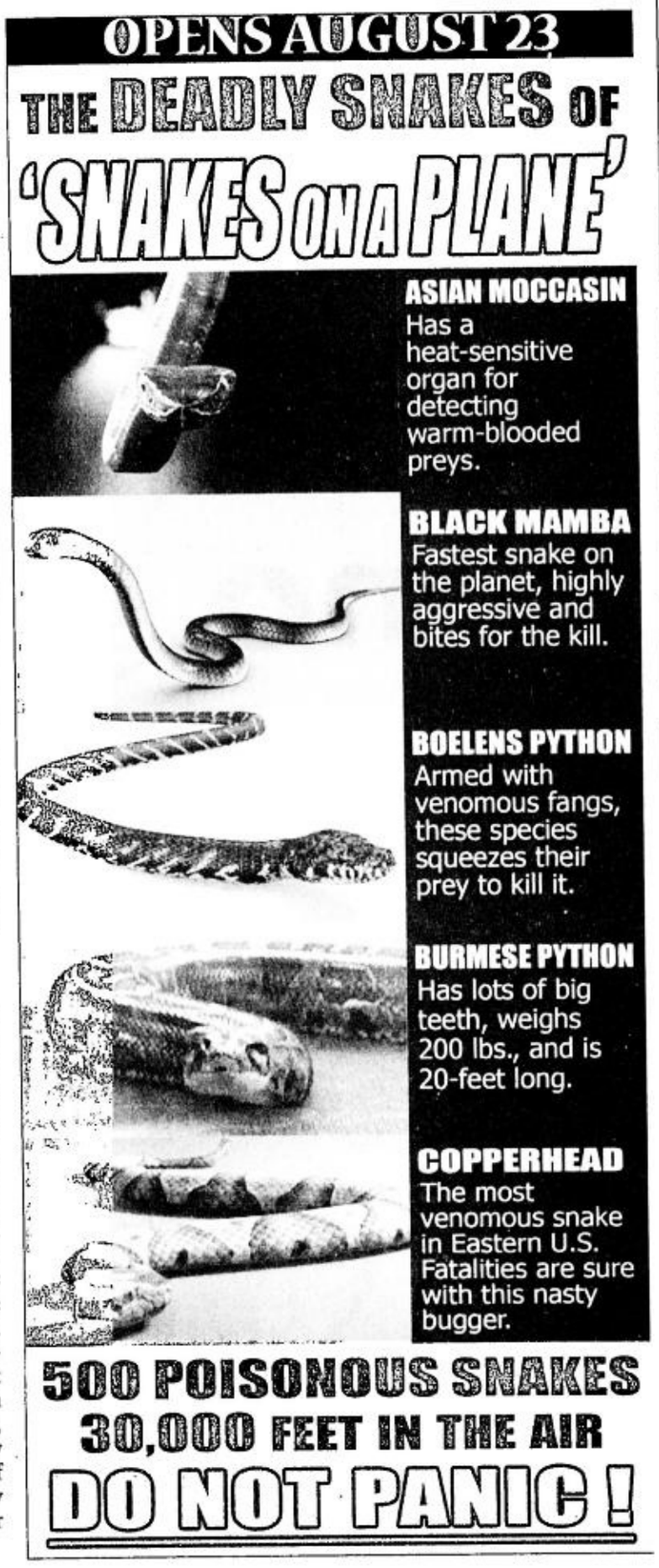
Its ensemble cast does wonders. Aside from praiseworthy turns by Grant, Quaid, Moore and Golzari, characters are given depth and recognition by Willem Dafoe (the stressed-out chief of staff), Marcia Gay Harden (the kindly First Lady), Chris Klein (Sally's devoted ex), Jennifer Coolidge (Sally's mom), Seth Myers (Sally's devious agent), and Shohreh Aghdashloo (Omer's rich aunt).

REVIEW

Written, produced and directed by Paul Weitz ("About a Boy," "American Pie"), "American Dreamz" plods on Americans', and now most of the world's, fascination and obsession with helping make or break new celebrities. The process of selecting the most appealing, not necessarily the most talented, is underscored.

Escapist drug

The televised selection process and song numbers are tame compared to the lurid behind-the-scenes goings-on. Personality quirks are visible and funnier, and more selfish agendas proceed with abandon. The parts focusing on the president's incompetence are among the duller and disengaging components, too. Still, the film's legion of characters offer a fine cross-section of the world's population that gladly takes the game show like an escapist drug, united for a short time in witnessing dreams of young hopefuls get dashed or realized. "American Dreamz" also, quite accurately, reflects the tendency of many politicians to ride the coattails of the hip and happening, to stay relevant. Truth is way stranger than fiction, that's for sure.



DID YOU KNOW...

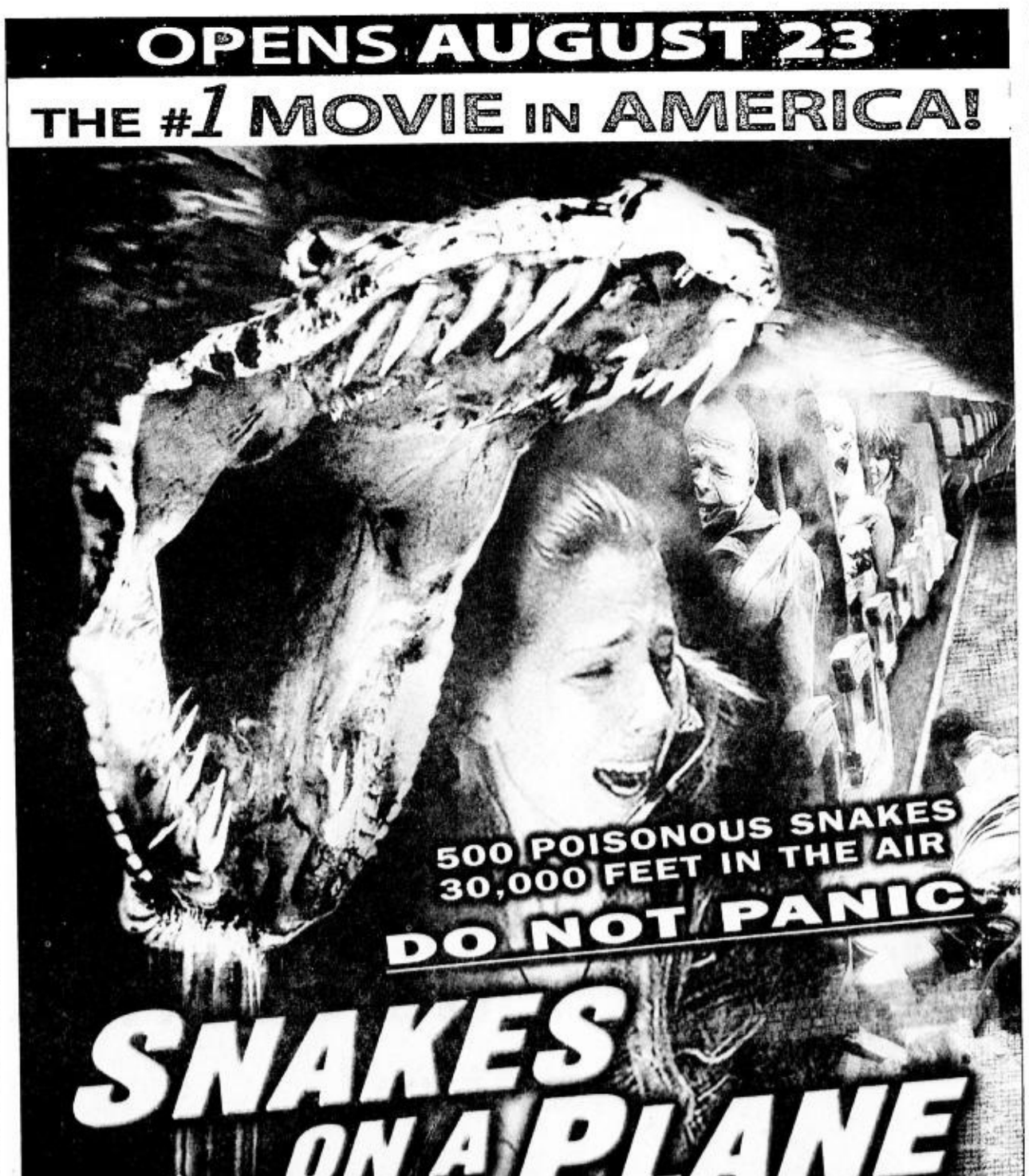
Swag drag

LOS ANGELES—The US government reminded celebrities that gifts to curry their favor constitute taxable income, but the fountain of free luxury goods that rains upon the already rich and famous is unlikely to dry up soon.

Celebrity tradition rewards stars for personal appearances with goodie bags—a.k.a. "swag"—worth close to $1 million.

"This is a big perk that (celebrities) have become very, very accustomed to," said Lash Fary of Distinctive Assets, a company that provides lavish gift bags for celebrity events.

However, on Thursday, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced it had reached an agreement with the US Internal Revenue Service to pay taxes on gift bags for Oscar presenters. Recipients of the 2006 Oscar booty basket will be issued tax forms as reminders of their obligations. *AP*



Oil Crisis?

Why worry when the Philippines abounds with the world's healthiest oil

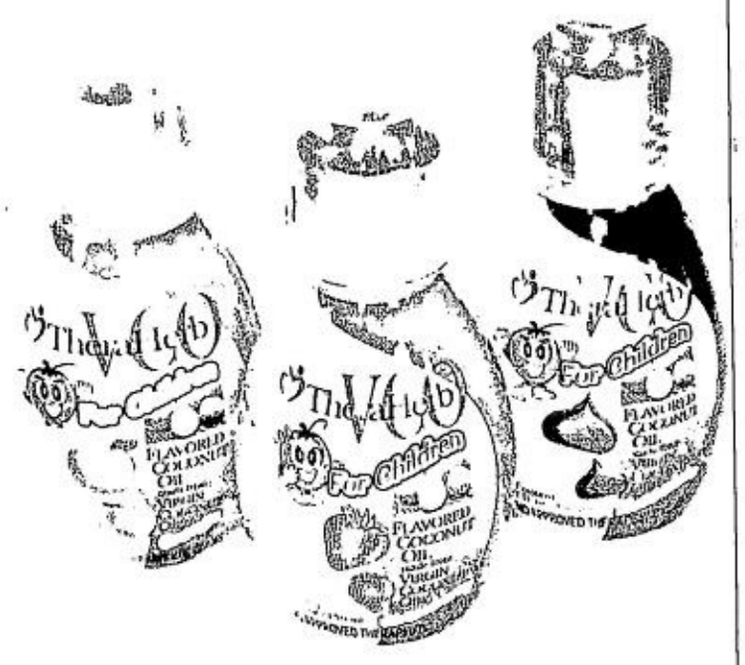
In this time of rising oil prices, most Filipinos would perhaps look at the Middle East with envy. And why not? The region produces a large part of the world's oil supply. When the price of oil shoots up, the Middle East enjoys the bonanza while, non-oil producing countries like the Philippines could only pray and hope for a quick end to the price hikes.

Unfair, many would think. Not quite. Don't you know that the Philippines is a leading oil exporter too? The difference is while the Middle East exports the kind of oil that runs cars and machines, the Philippines' gift to the world is an oil from a renewable source, does not pollute the environment and, more importantly, helps in enhancing health and wellness.

Called the "tree of life," coconut trees are found mostly near the equator, at the exact area where the Philippine archipelago lies. Yes, while the Middle East holds the world's biggest deposits of petroleum, the Philippines and nearby countries abound with coconut trees that have been a part of the people's everyday life.

Looking at the many uses of the coconut tree would sustain the belief that it is indeed the tree of life. There is no part of it that goes to waste. The coconut meat, a very good source of nutrients with its rich protein and medium-chain fatty acid is primarily foodstuff. The shell is good material for charcoal. The leaves are used as traditional roofing materials. The tree itself is a source of low-cost wood. For many decades, the coconut's leading use has been as copra which is processed into cooking oil. But just a few years back, Filipinos introduced Virgin Coconut Oil or VCO to the world.

The health benefits of VCO have gained many believers in so short a time. It is fittingly called the healthiest oil for it is good for the heart, provides a quick source of energy and is not deposited as fats in our body.



Most importantly, VCO is rich in lauric acid which is similar to the lauric acid present in the colostrum of mother's milk. As supplement to milk, VCO provides additional power to the immune system of children by improving their body's resistance against various infections and ailments.

Yes, VCO has been proven good for adults but is it also good for children? The good news is that studies have shown that VCO is safe even for children. And just like what it did with the Theraherb VCO for adults, Splash Corporation has once again come up with an innovation that will make VCO enticing to kids. Theraherb VCO for Children now comes in mouth-watering flavors that kids will surely love - chocolate, strawberry, and orange.

Adding flavors will not affect or reduce the health benefits that VCO offers. On the contrary, adding flavor to VCO will make it more appetizing. Just imagine the benefits it will give to the country's overall health and wellness when more and more of its people enjoy their daily VCO.

Splash Corporation is aggressively working on developing the markets for VCO here and abroad. Splash believes that VCO is one product where the Philippines have an advantage. Aside from this, a global market for VCO would mean additional income for the Filipino coconut farmers.

Splash's support for the VCO is also very much aligned to its advocacy of "Galing ng Pinoy, Ipagmalaki" which aims to create appreciation and support for Filipino achievers as well as in promoting patronage of products and services provided by Filipino companies. As the company's corporate battle cry goes: "Ang bagong Pilipino, kayang tumapat sa buong mundo."

For more information on VCO and the Galing ng Pinoy advocacy : type GALINGPINOY with your name, address, your message or inquiry to Splash's text hotline at 0918-906-1459.

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Lakas mula sa lauric acid

SPLASH CORPORATION

There's only one God & His name's not Technology

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ADAM SANDLER'S LATEST STARRER, "Click," is the old cinematic "wish fulfillment" plot given a contemporary, high-tech twist, with Sandler's character achieving his dream of exacting control over his universe through the use of a magical universal remote control.

At first, as the story unfolds, it feels too smugly fanciful for even its far-out premise.

How patly perfect for Sandler's struggling architect character to finally get everything he wants in both his career and family life through the simplistic expedient of being able to freeze, rewind or fast-forward all aspects of his life!

He does this with the special remote control given to him by a weird, all-knowing geek played by **Christopher Walken**.

For much too much of a movie, the plot development consists mainly of Sandler getting back at the people who make life difficult for him and his loved ones. Some of these entertainingly staged triumphs are fine, but there simply are too many of them, and they soon become a surfeit.

But, just as we're about to give up on the movie, it finally changes focus, and shows how Sandler's perfect secret weapon for success and total one-upmanship can end up making life miserable and even tragic for him.

Yes, he becomes awesomely rich and powerful, but he also misses out on real involvement in his family life. Since his remote control empowers him to fast-forward his personal life in favor of his now upwardly mobile career, he doesn't really see his children growing up, and his wife feels neglected and unhappy.

It's no wonder, therefore, that when Sandler finally comes to his senses, he discovers that his wife has left him, and will in fact soon marry another man, leaving him in the royal lurch.

His kids are now all grown up, but regard him as a stranger—which is really what he has become, no thanks to the all-powerful remote control that has made him an icon in his business empire, but a cipher in his loved ones' lives and hearts.

This is a high-tech rephrasing of that famous injunction, "What doth it profit a man if he gains the whole world, but suffers the loss of his soul?"

Sandler's character has, in fact, lost his soul to soulless technology, and that should truly give viewers pause.

The best bit of irony that the film shares is the fact that Sandler uses his magical control to manipulate everyone and everything—but it ends up controlling *him*!

We don't have an all-powerful remote in our own hands, but we can take the symbolic lesson learned here and apply it to our own lives by substituting the other control factors that hold sway in our own spheres—wealth, power, popularity, beauty, lust—take your pick, *Click*!

Unfortunately, the film doesn't know when enough is enough, and develops its story's epilogue to excessive lengths, all the way to Sandler's spectacularly grandiose death scene(!).

Despite this excess, however, "Click" remains a viewable film for its telling insight into men who aspire to be all-powerful gods who are able to control their universe—only to reap the whirlwind for being so grandly, pathetically presumptuous.

There is only one God, and His name is *not* Technology.

'Prada' sneak previews

The fashion comedy, "The Devil Wears Prada," will have sneak previews tomorrow and on Tuesday. The film stars Meryl Streep as a self-absorbed and vicious fashion magazine editor who makes life miserable for her assistants, including a new victim portrayed by Anne Hathaway.

"The Devil Wears Prada" starts its regular run on Aug. 30.

What are 'butt doubles'?

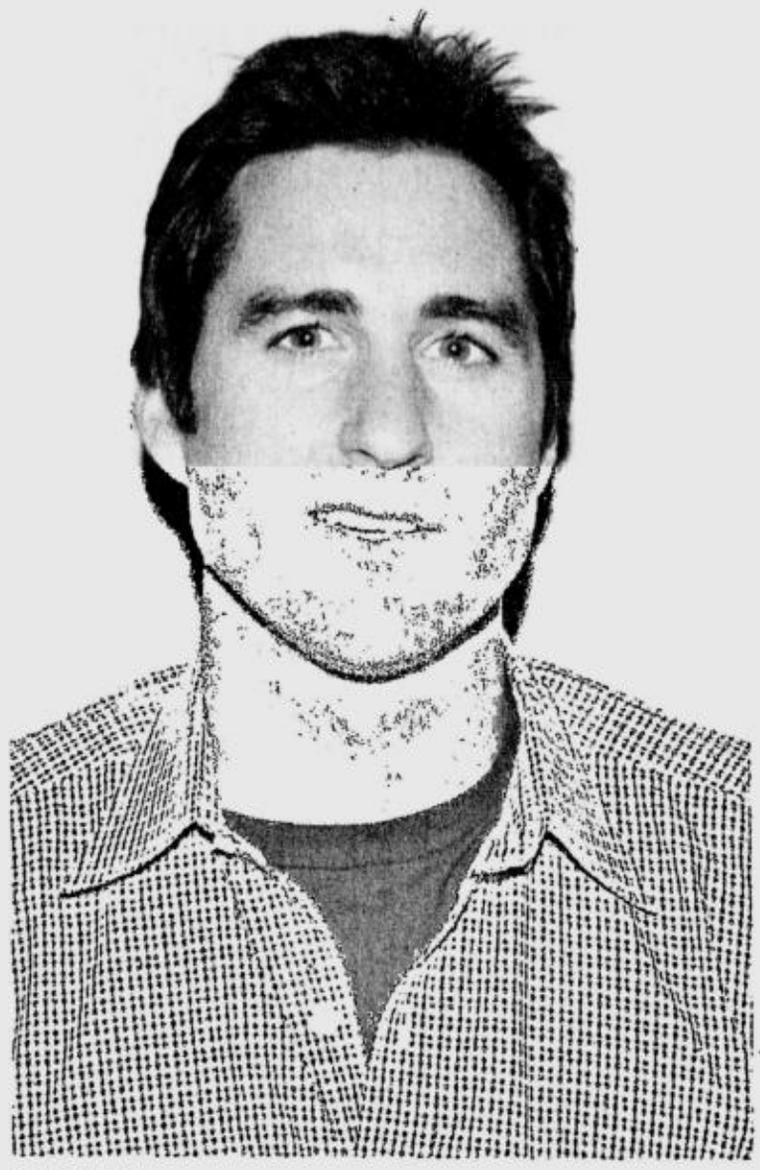
IN HOLLYWOOD/from page G1

and Dupree," respectively. "That's a little too much Wilson for anybody," quipped Luke in our recent press con with him.

Well, it turned out later that it was a case of too much "butt double." It seems the brothers are not very confident about their tushes. So the Wilsons opted for the services of "butt doubles"—people who rent out their backsides. Only in Hollywood, folks. An actress (or her director) prefers somebody else's breasts to stand in for her own? No problem. There are individuals who will flash behinds, breasts or entire bodies for a fee.

Luke was quoted as saying in a different interview: "I had a great year emotionally, but physically it was kind of a tough year. I thought it might be a good time to sit on the bench for that scene and let a more athletic guy take over there. What they do, and I know this sounds strange, is they give you Polaroids of guy's backsides. They have guys come in and then they give you the Polaroids and have you pick one out."

He continued: "I found myself poring over the Polaroids and saying, 'I like that one but it doesn't have quite the pizzazz I want for this scene.' Or, 'This one's good, but it's too muscular.' I've got a little hail damage back there. As you get a little older, you get little dents and indentations. You want to act cool about it when you eventually say, 'I like this guy's ass.'"



LUKE Wilson

Luke Wilson sounds convincing when he says there's no rivalry between him and older brod Owen

Never been hurt

In "My Super Ex-Girlfriend," Luke's character, Matt, learns that his girlfriend (**Uma Thurman**) is a superhero. When he breaks up with her because she gets too controlling and neurotic, she exacts revenge by tormenting and embarrassing him.

But the film shows that there are advantages to having a super girlfriend, like earth-shaking sex. In our press con, when Luke was asked if he had experienced such bed-wrecking sex, the youngest of Hollywood's Wilson actor-brothers (at 34) said, "Have I ever endured something like that (laughter)? No, I've never been hurt. I've pulled a couple of hamstrings but I have never experienced anything like that. I've definitely never looked down on the bed and seen two burly crew guys shaking it like this (demonstrates men shaking the bed in the scene to simulate super-vigorous sex). That kind of takes the romance out for me (laughter)."

Does he like aggressive women? Luke, who is currently in a relationship, deadpanned, "I like strong women. I also like weak women (laughter)." He continued, "No, I'm kidding. I like somebody with a point of view. I prefer somebody who will tell me when she thinks I am not doing something right. I like somebody with an opinion, not somebody who's just meek and not saying what's on her mind."

Of Uma, the guy who dated such actresses as **Drew Barrymore** and **Gwyneth Paltrow**, he said: "I hadn't met Uma before. I was nervous. I remember being in high school and watching her in 'Dangerous Liaisons.' 'Pulp Fiction' came out right around the time I was making my first movie. I have always been a fan of hers. She is elegant, intelligent but she also has a bawdy sense of humor."

He claimed that so far none of his ex-girlfriends have tormented him. "I've been pretty lucky that I haven't had any of it," he declared. "I've certainly had them hate me but I haven't had them want to kill me."

When our colleague commented on his Texan drawl, the Dallas-born actor laughed and explained, "I have been making an effort to speak faster (laughter) and I still don't do a good job. Beer tends to slow down my speech (laughter) so I don't drink it anymore. You should hang around with us in Texas. After a week there, it all goes back to slowness. (He speaks in that slow Texan drawl:) How y'all doing? It's just one of those rural things—that's how people talk and that's how they move. Maybe it's the heat. Maybe we all have heatstroke (laughter)."

Overstaying guest

In "You, Me and Dupree," Owen plays the Dupree character, an overstaying guest in the house of **Matt Dillon** and **Kate Hudson**. In our previous chat with Owen, he mentioned Luke as the Dupree in his life sometime ago. When informed about being tagged Dupree by his brother, Luke was not at all surprised.

"Can I tell you what Owen said to me?" he asked. "He said, I've been doing a lot of press and you're getting pegged as the Dupree in my life. I'm like, really—wow. It is true that I lived with him for 12 years and overstayed my welcome. I'd just say that I only overstayed my welcome probably the last five, six years of living at Owen's house (laughter)."

Luke continued, "I don't know why I didn't want to move out. Maybe I should see a psychiatrist. Maybe it's because I'm the youngest. But I stayed so long, that Owen said, 'Luke, I know you have money. Get an apartment (laughter). I need you out of here.' I was really like a Dupree. Owen would come home with somebody and I'd be like, how are you doing? What have you guys been up to? Owen would just want to be alone in his own house. So I purchased a place which I didn't move into until after two years (laughter). I was saying, how am I supposed to move into my house? I've got friends staying there. What am I supposed to do, kick them out? He was like, yes, Luke, I'm kicking you out. Maybe you'll kick them out (laughter)."

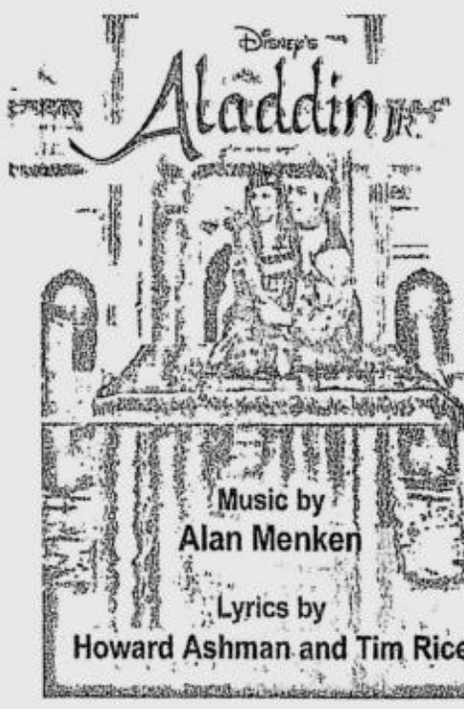
He owes Owen

Luke sounded convincing when he insisted that there was no professional rivalry between him and Owen. He shared, "I'm sure it has happened where both of our names have come up when people are casting movies. Surprisingly, though, it has never come down to both of us vying for the same role. I never know how to answer this question because people don't ever want to hear the answer that we're not competitive. We aren't. I'm in the business because of him. I really look up to him. You just want the other person to do well. I always want my movies to do well or for people to like them and for them to be well received critically. I hope the exact same thing for Owen's films."

Luke described how the brothers, including the oldest, actor-director Andrew, spend an afternoon when they manage to get together: "We have kind of gotten caught up in the soccer craze. Owen's got a yard so we have been playing soccer games lately. We also play a lot of bocce, that old Italian game. Or we just go to the ocean, now that it's summertime. The three of us get along very well while at the same time, not really liking each other (laughter) but what are you supposed to do at this point?"

Then he stated, "I want to make a film about Owen." What would be its title? "The Godfather."

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.



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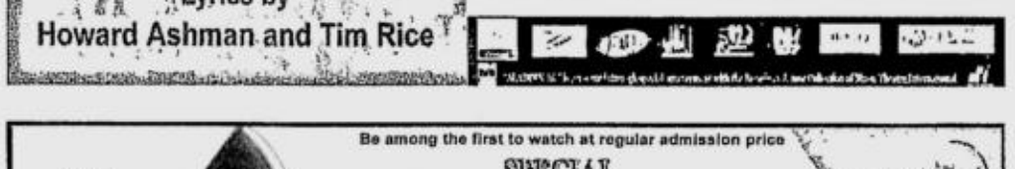

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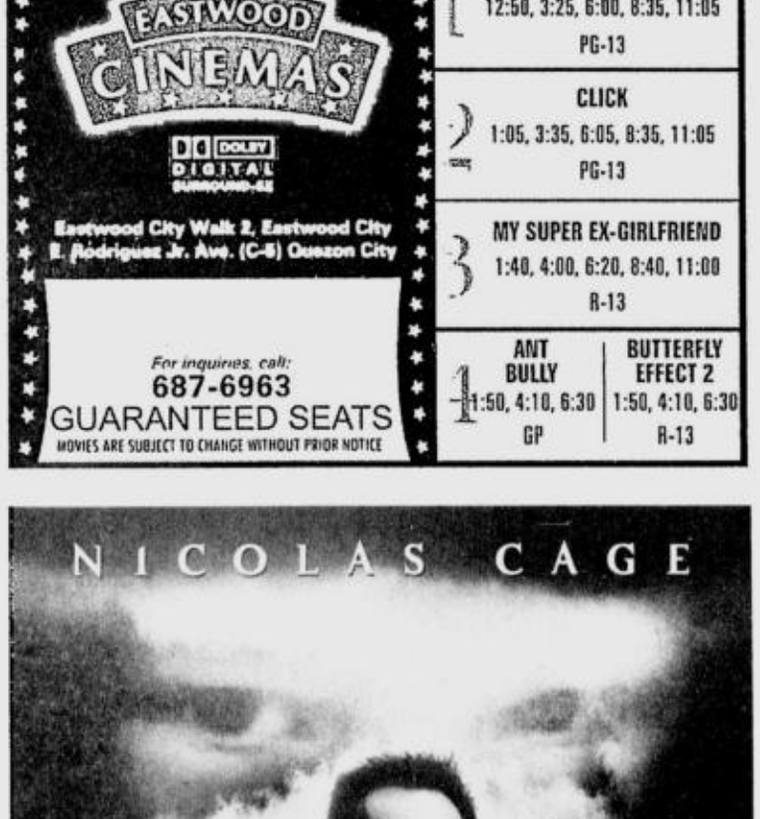

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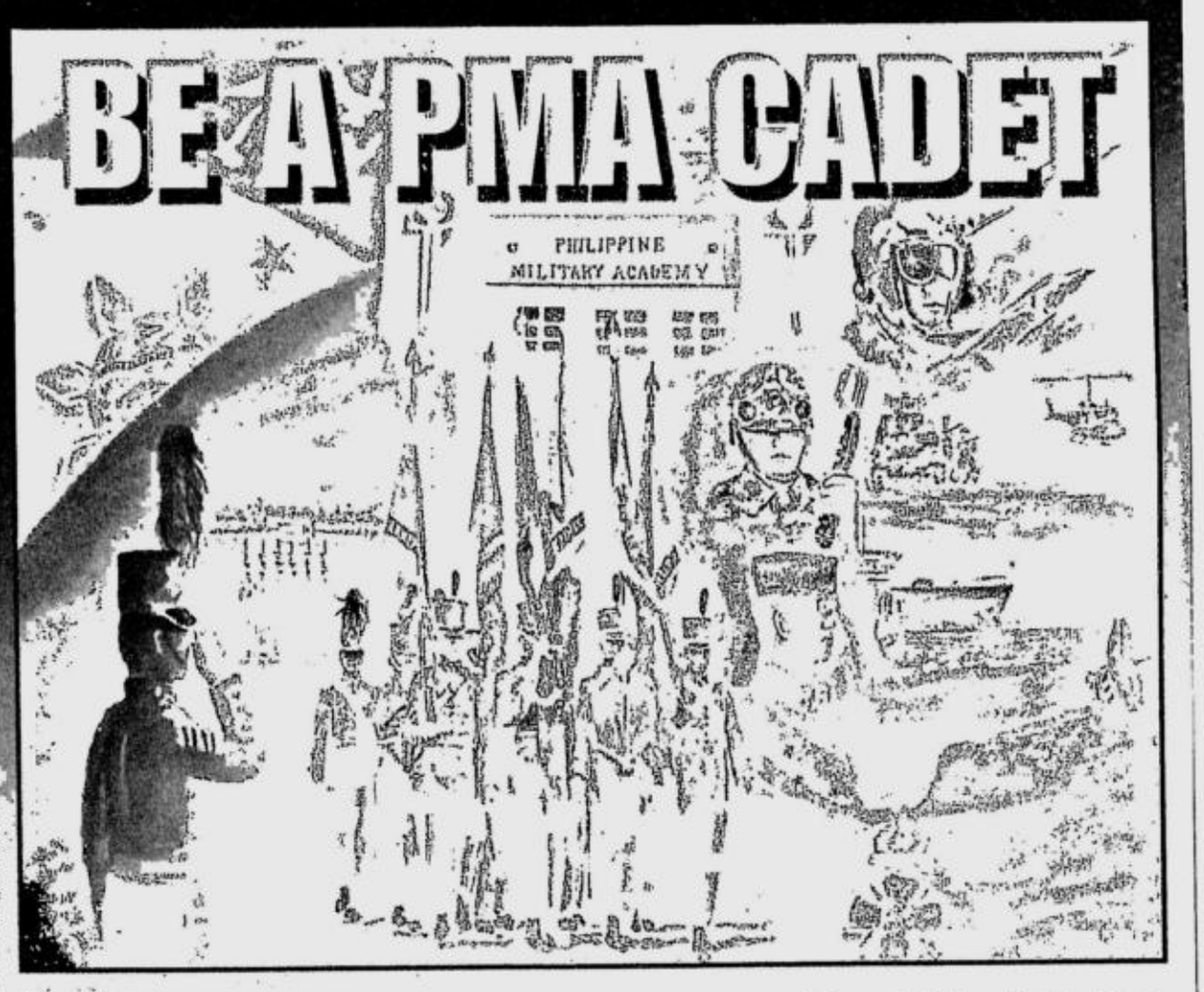

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or 09273810493

PMA Liaison Office
Camp Aguinaldo,
Quezon City
(02) 913-6286

ON-LINE applicationis encouraged: **http://www.pma.ph**

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA

OFFICE OF THE BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The Provincial Government of Isabela, through its Bids & Awards Committee is inviting interested Manufacturers, Wholesalers, and Exclusive Distributors/Suppliers in the pre-eligibility and to participate in the sealed competitive bidding for the procurement of Drugs and Medicines/ Medical/Surgical/ Laboratory/ X-ray & Dental Supplies and Office/ Janitorial/ Electrical Supplies for the different Offices/ Hospitals in the Province of Isabela.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES

Project Name & Reference No.	ABC	Availability of Bid Documents	Bid Document Cost	Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline of Submission of Bids	Opening of Bids
01 – Supply of Drugs and Medicines for various hospitals in the province	P11,900,000.00	August 22–25, 2006 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela	P10,000.00	September 7, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the FN Dy Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela	September 19, 2006, 9:30 a.m. at the FN Dy Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela	September 19, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the FN Dy Hall Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela
02 – Supply of Medical/ Surgical/ Dental/ X-Ray/ Laboratory	P4,000,000.00	August 22–25, 2006 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela	P4,000.00	September 7, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the FN Dy Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela	September 19, 2006, 9:30 a.m. at the FN Dy Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela	September 19, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the FN Dy Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela
03 – Supply of Office/ Janitorial/ and Electrical Supplies for various offices/ hospitals in the Province of Isabela	P1,700,000.00	August 22–25, 2006 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela	P1,500.00	September 7, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the FN Dy Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela	September 19, 2006, 9:30 a.m. at the FN Dy Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela	September 19, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the FN Dy Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela

Complete set of bid documents may be acquired from the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Ilagan, Isabela, by the eligible suppliers/ dealers after payment of non-refundable Bidding fee specified above at the Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Provincial Government of Isabela reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal has been stated by the BAC as the most advantageous to the Provincial Government and the right to confiscate the bid bond and/or pursue appropriate legal action should the winning bidder refuse to accept the award.

Further, the Provincial Government assumes no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in participating in this undertaking, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) MA. THERESA ARANETA-FLORES
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – August 13 & 20, 2006)

Let's Study in Japan

Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) in the Republic of the Philippines 2007-2008

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has started the implementation of the Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) through the assistance of the Government of Japan for Japanese Fiscal Year 2002.

The objective of the JDS Project is to provide Philippine nationals with opportunities for obtaining master's degree at the Japanese universities in order to support human resource development policy of the Government of the Philippines, and eventually to extend and strengthen the bilateral relationship between the Philippines and Japan.

The JDS Project targets young people in public sector who are expected to play leadership roles in the Philippines and people in private sector who are expected to contribute to the development of the Philippines market economy.

Degree to be obtained and Field of Study

1. Degree: Master's Degree (2-2.5 years courses)
2. Field of Study (number of scholars to be accepted)
   2-1. *(for public sector)*
   -Public Administration (10 persons)
   -Economics (8 persons)
   -Information and Communication Technology (3 persons)
   -Business Administration (2 persons)
   2-2. *(for public and private sectors)*
   -Business Administration (2 persons)
3. Language of Instruction: predominantly English

Common Agenda for Each Field of Study:

For JDS project in the Philippines, the "Common Agenda" has been settled for each field as follows:

Public Administration
- Building Institutional Capacity for Better Governance
- Advancing Decentralization and Regional Development

Economics
- Ensuring Balanced and Stable Fiscal Management
- Promotion of Sound Market and Industries

Information and Communication Technology
- ICT Policy to Create Wider and Advanced Usage

Business Administration
- Providing Sound and Attractive Business Environment

Allowances for JDS applicants and fellows:

1) Testing fee for IELTS and limited medical examination Fees.
2) Limited transportation and accommodation allowances for selection stages.
3) Limited transportation and accommodation allowance during pre-departure orientation including full-time Japanese language training in Manila for 2 months from April 2007

Application

-Application Documents are distributed at
-JICE JDS Project Office, or
-Can be downloaded at http://sv2.jice.org/jds/
(website will be available from 21st August)

Qualification Requirements:

1) A Filipino Citizen
2) Below 40 years old as of April 1, 2007.
(Those who were born on/after April 2nd 1967)
3) Civilian Employee
4) Bachelor's degree relevant to the target fields except for ICT field, which applicants should have bachelor's degree in ICT or equivalent is required
5) Has not been awarded foreign scholarship for Master's degree
6) Currently employed with at least 2 years working experience at the time of nomination
7) Has a performance rating of at least "very satisfactory" at the time of application

Selection Procedures

-First Selection:
Documentation Screening by accepting Universities
-SCS Interview
-Second Selection:
English Examination(JELTS), Basic Math Test
-Third Selection
Technical Interview by professors of the accepting universities
-Fourth Selection
Comprehensive Interview by O/C members

Deadline for Application

Not later than 16:30hrs on October 25, 2006
Late submission and incomplete application documents shall not be accepted.

Where to submit

Application forms and required documents must be submitted either personally, by mail, or courier to JICE JDS Project Office.

For further information, inquire from:

JICE JDS Project Office in the Philippines

(Mon to Fri, 09:00 to 12:00, 13:30 to 16:30)
Unit 2-F1, Island Plaza Salcedo, L.P. Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines
*TEL: 02-7533261
*Official Web Site: http://sv2.jice.org/jds/

Executing Agency

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA- Scholarship Affairs Secretariat)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate contractors to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the Improvement of the NTC Building (construction of NTC Main Entrance Canopy, Covered Walkway and Repainting). The approved budget is **P4,640,774.57.**

Letter of Intent and Registration requirements can be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod,** Head, NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **22 August 2006,** to be submitted not later than **1 September 2006, 5:00 P.M.,** through the NTC-BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered contractors shall be from **11-15 September 2006** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Four Thousand Pesos (P4,000.00).

Pre-bid Conference will be on **18 September 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** at the NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **17 October 2006 at 2:00 P.M. and 17 October 2006 at 2:15 P.M.,** respectively. Bidders shall submit **four (4) separate sealed envelopes; two (2)** envelopes containing **the technical component** of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy, and **two (2)** envelopes containing the **financial component** of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.**

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) JAIME M. FORTES, JR.
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – August 13 & 20, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimte contractors to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the supply of the following: **1) CMTS Quality of Service Monitoring Project** and **2) IT Equipment,** for the commission. The approved budget for CMTS Quality of Service Monitoring Project is **P5,459,000.00** and **P3,390,000.00** for IT Equipment.

Registration requirements can be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod,** Head, NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **23 August 2006,** to be submitted not later than **6 September 2006, 5:00 P.M.,** through the NTC-BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **11-15 September 2006** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) and Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00), respectively.

Pre-bid Conference will be on **19 September 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** for item (1), and **20 September 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** for item (2) at the NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids for **Item (1)** will be on **18 October 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** and **20 October 2006 at 2:15 P.M.,** respectively. Bidders shall submit **four (4) separate sealed envelopes; two (2)** envelopes containing the **technical component** of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy, and **two (2)** envelopes containing the **financial component** of the bid, one (1) duly marked as Original and the other Copy. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.**

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **JAIME M. FORTES, JR.**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – August 20 & 27, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC),** through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Consultants to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and shortlisted, to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	:	Consultancy Services
Brief Description	:	Preparation of Request For Tenders (RFT) Documents and Bid Management for the development of the Commission's Automated Spectrum Management System (ASMS)
Approved Budget For the Contract	:	P250,000.00
Source of Funding	:	Unprogrammed Fund, FY 2005 General Appropriation Act (GAA), R.A. 9336.

The list of minimum requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Shortlisting of eligible Consultants will be done based on the following criteria: experience of the Consultant, qualification of personnel and current workload. Only five (5) eligible bidders shall make up the shortlist. The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be *QBE.*

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Submission of Letter of Intent and Application for Eligibility	22 Aug. - 1 Sept. 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	28 Aug. - 1 Sept. 2006
3. Submission of Eligibility requirements	7 September 2006
4. Results of Eligibility Check	8 - 14 September 2006
5. Results of Short Listing	15 September 2006
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	18 September 2006
7. Pre-bid Conference	21 September 2006

The Eligibility Screening Form will be available and may be secured from Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod, BAC Secretariat, NTC Building, BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City, upon the submission of a letter of intent. Submission and results of eligibility shall be in the same office.

Bid Documents will be available only to shortlisted bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) to the National Telecommunications Commission, Cashier.

The National Telecommunications Commission assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **JAIME M. FORTES, JR.**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – August 20 & 27, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 e-mail: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of one (1) unit AutoCAD plotter

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA),* through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P355,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of one (1) unit AutoCAD plotter.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of one (1) unit AutoCAD plotter.* Delivery is required within 45 days from receipt of Notice of Award. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P2,000.00 in the form of *CASH.* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *September 5, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on September 19, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *September 19, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity	-	*NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Person	-	*Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address	-	*101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*
Telephone No.	-	*(632) 455-2758*
e-mail address	-	*vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Fax No.	-	*(632) 455-2758*
Website	-	*www.nfa.gov.ph*

PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI–August 20 & 27, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education (DepED)
Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project
(National Project Management Office)
5/F Bonifacio Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

DepED

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date August 15, 2006
Loan No. PH-P200

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the supply and delivery of Furniture to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The DepED through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of school furniture for classrooms, science laboratories, home economics and industrial arts of the different secondary schools in the Division Offices of North Cotabato and Zamboanga del Sur, following the schedules below:

Division Office	Start of Issuance of Bid Documents	Time & Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Time and Date of Bid Opening	Venue	Telephone No.
North Cotabato	Aug. 28, 2006	Sept. 4 2006 at 10:00 a.m.	Sept. 14, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.	DepED Division Office of North Cotabato, Kidapawan City	(064)278-4144
Zamboanga del Sur	Aug. 28, 2006	Sept. 4, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.	Sept. 14, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.	DepED Division Office of Zamboanga del Sur, Pagadian City	(062)214-1991

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete quantities of all the furniture items intended for the selected schools in the Divisions of North Cotabato and Zamboanga del Sur, per schedule of requirements of the bidding documents.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain complete information about the proposed project upon submission of a Letter of Intent and acquire the bidding documents from the Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) Offices at the telephone numbers as identified in paragraph 2.
5. Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the date stated in paragraph 2 upon payment to the Cashier of the Division Office of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) only.
6. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of equivalent percentage to the total bid amount as specified in ITB-7 page 5 of the Instruction to Bidders, must be delivered to the Division Office at the time, date and place as indicated in the above paragraph 2. Said bids will be opened immediately for reading in public in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
7. The Division BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and award the furniture packages to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) **CARMEN SUMALINOG**
DBAC Chairman
Zamboanga del Sur

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO ARIAGA**
DBAC Chairman
North Cotabato

(PDI – Aug. 20 & 27, 2006)

SOCIAL HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

a subsidiary of National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation

August 18, 2006

INIVATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) invites all interested parties to pre-qualify and bid for the architectural design/plans with specifications and actual construction/ improvements of the office space with a total floor area of 4,777 sq.m. distributed in seven (7) floors located at Banco de Oro Plaza, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

Interested parties may secure pre-qualification information sheet starting August 22 to 25, 2006 from the Office of the Head, Finance and Administration Services, 4th floor Filomena Building III, 104 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. A pre-bid conference for all qualified bidders will be held at the Conference Room, 5th floor on August 23, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. Failure to attend the pre-bidding conference will be a ground for disqualification to participate. The deadline for submission and actual opening of bid will be announced in the said meeting.

A non-refundable registration fee of P10,000.00 in the form of cash and 2½% for GSIS bidders' bond must be enclosed in the sealed bids.

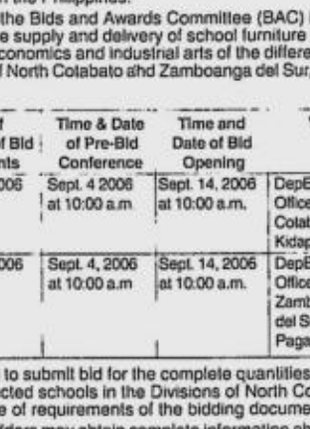
Social Housing Finance Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality/deficiency thereon or to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Corporation.

For further information/clarification on the above matter, please contact Engr. Felman Gilbang of the Technical Services Offices (TSO), Telephone Nos. 893-1501, local 276.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. FERMIN T. ARZAGA**
President

(PDI–Aug. 20, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



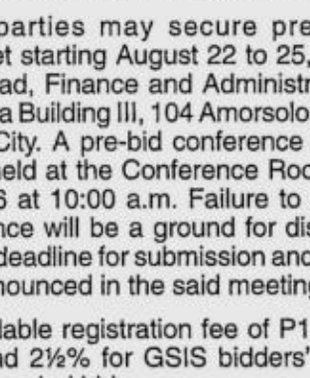
Notice is hereby given that **ARMANDO T. PABIANIA,** whose picture appears herein, is no longer connected with **AGRESOURCE, INC.** of **17 Corner Sepulveda-Sikatuna Streets, Cebu City.**

A case against said **ARMANDO T. PABIANIA** for abandonment of employment is presently pending with the NLRC-RAB, Cebu City, docketed as **Case No. RAB VII-07-1575-2006.** Consequently, any and all transactions with him will no longer be honored.

AGRESOURCE, INC.

(PDI – August 20, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



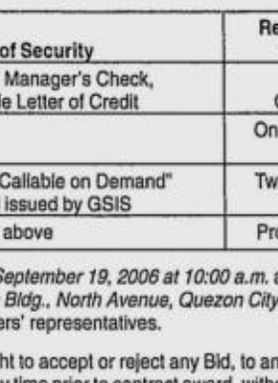
Notice is hereby given that **NEMESIO RECTO S. GALAPIA** whose picture appears herein, is no longer connected with **AGRESOURCE, INC.** of **17 Corner Sepulveda-Sikatuna Streets, Cebu City.**

A case against said **NEMESIO RECTO S. GALAPIA** for abandonment of employment is presently pending with the NLRC-RAB, Cebu City, docketed as **Case No. RAB VII-07-1596-2006.** Consequently, any and all transactions with him will no longer be honored.

AGRESOURCE, INC.

(PDI – August 20, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Please be informed that **LOURDES "YOYEN" PROTACIO-DE JESUS** (whose picture appears above) is **WANTED BY THE AUTHORITIES** for numerous counts of **QUALIFIED THEFT** and **COMPLEX CRIME FOR QUALIFIED THEFT THRU FALSIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL DOCUMENTS.**

The Regional Trial Court of Makati, Branch 56 have issued warrants for her arrest.

A reward will be given for any information that will lead to her capture. Those who have information regarding her whereabouts may contact Ligon Solis Corpus Mejia Law Firm at 8940601, 8945737 and 8175672.

(PDI–August 20, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MR. VICENTE E. DE OCAMPO** of **JVC Car Sales Banilad, Nasugbu, Batangas and/or Pasong Kawayan, Nasugbu, Batangas** was issued a **WARRANT OF ARREST** by Judge Luis Zenon Q. Maceren of Branch 40, MTC, Quezon City in connection with eight (8) counts of Violations of BP 22 (Criminal Case Nos. 128622 to 29). Incentives await any individual who can furnish leads or information for his immediate arrest. Please contact Tel. No.: 9279648 loc 221 and/or Cell No. 0927-990-4200

(PDI–Aug. 20, 2006)

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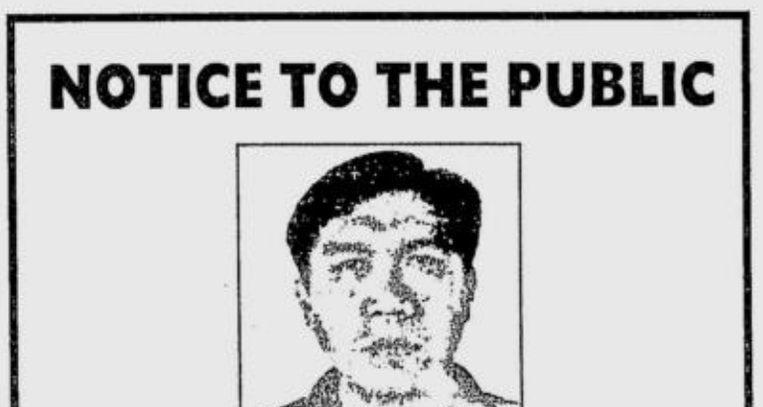

The Professional Regulation Commission's Top Architect for Year 2005 Nestor S. Mangio, who is also National Real Estate Association Inc.'s (NREA) board chair, past president and past convention chairman was elevated to NREA's elite Hall of Fame during the association's Mid-Year Testimonial Dinner-Meeting held on July 31 at Gabaldon Hall, Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila. He was the second recipient of NREA's highest award of recognition for committed leadership, dedicated service and exceptional performance. Mangio is the president and CEO of Central Country Estate, Inc. – owner and developer of The Lakeshore Estate in Mexico, Pampanga. Shown from left are Engr Reynaldo Carpio, Jose V. Manalad, Architect Nestor S. Mangio, Fuap, Marionette P. Mangio, Gonzalo Benjamin A. Bongolan, president, Home Guaranty Corp. and Alejandro S. Manalac.

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• NEW INTRAMUROS QC H/L 167 m2FA 450 5BR 3CG RUSH @ 8 8M
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MIA ALTA Antipolo 6394976 09182417538 Marites

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SIKATUNA
QC Bnew 5.2M 4BR 5TB Call 724-2629 / 435-2186

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4 SALE/RENT 8Wack² Mand UGF 174m² 3BR 2pkng Upgrade FF •0917-8865134•

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Bnw 2sty3br3tb 2cg 4.9Mneg 159 Sct Limbaga Ext 4388754

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UNIT L/A F/A P NOW
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D3 98m² 171m² 8.363 6.7M
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9115476 ; 09189356366

TOWNHSE STA MESA 88M² 4BR 3STY 0917-5369387

Varsity Hill QC nr Ateneo Miriam new 3BR 3sty P5.9M 4141414/2882/09206320000

LOT

300 m² lot6 blk1 Auburn St. N. Fairview Q.C. 6500/m² (0917)522-0522

300m² CUBAO 0922-8905454

562sqm w/ TCT Binangonan 8435555 / 09178986809

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720m² Lot Kalookan Nr EDSA P9.5M • Call 0917-8906454

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BAGUIO STAFF HOUSE GREEN VALLEY 9BR 09209039193

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SALCEDO PARK 3BR MAKATI 09209039193 / 8186820

SIME CONDO 12T 2BDRMS &4T 1BDRM TEL.5338536 MARLYN

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'06Pcanlo 63Tdp5Tmo 0928-8449046

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1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% EASY CARLOAN 8997759

1% Sangla ur Car 5344441

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7723810/12

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/out taking car 7262780

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B'LIARD TBLE 33T-UP 8014494

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Powerbook G4 80GB 512RAM SuperDrive 100K•0919-8091285

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Aug. 19 & 20, 2006
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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

1 CHAMKAUR SINGH SON OF BALWINDER SINGH OF 35-D CALLEJON8 CO DELPAN STA ANA MANILA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO CHAMKAUR SINGH WRRING(PDI August 20,2006)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ESTATE OF DANILO CAMPOS SR. HAS BEEN EXTRA JUDICIALLY SETTLED PER DOC. NOTARIZED BEFORE ATTY. MICHAEL VITO CRUZ ENTERED AS DOC. 58, PAGE 13, BOOK II, SERIES OF 2005. (AUG. 6,13&20, 2006)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE ANGELINA JIZ DE ORTEGA HAS BEEN EXTRAJUCIALLY SETTLED AMONG HER HEIRS AS PER DOC. NO. 415 PAGE NO. 84 BOOK XI SERIES OF 2005 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. BENEDICTA BARRIENTOS. DOC. NO. 488 PAGE 98 BOOK XXII SERIES 2005 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC DOMINIC FELISARIA. DOC. # 6941 PAGE 232 SERIES OF 2005 BEFORE CONSUL PATRIC JOHN HILADO, PHIL CONSULATE, CHICAGO, ILL. U S A (AUG. 6,13&20, 2006

STUDY NOW PAY LATER CAREGIVER COURSE 3026893 09177924104 / 09228148324

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the PORFIRIO C. MACATANGAY who Died on JANUARY 7,2006 had settled among his heirs Per Extra-judicial Partition of the estate of PORFIRIO C. MACATANGAY as Notared as Doc No. 430; Page No.86 and Doc No. 431;Page No:87 ;Book No: 109;Series of 2006 of the notarial Registry Book of ATTY. ANGELITO V. MARAÑA of Lipa City(PDI- Aug. 20,27 & Sept.3,2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ALBERT BALAIS DINGCOL was Extra-judially Settled By the heirs as Per Doc# 055 Page#13 Book#91 Series of 2006 By Notary Public Atty. DANILO B. BAÑARES of Makati City.
(PDI Aug.05,13&20'06)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late REMEDIOS LASTRELLA has been adjudicated to Vilma Alviso per Doc # 396 Page # 40 Book # 812 Series of 2006 by Notary Public Atty Hector BI Centeno of Quezon City.
PDI-August 13, 20 & 27, 2006

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late BENIGNO ANGELES BERNARDO has been extrajudicial settled among his heirs as per Doc no.381, Page no.77 Book no.XVI, Series of 2006 under Notary Public Atty. Julian T. Tutanes of Mandaluyong City.
(PDI - Aug. 13, 20 & 27, 2006)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE LUCAS MORFE AND DONATA LAINO MORFE WAS EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AS PER DOC. NO. 80; PAGE NO. 16; BOOK NO. I AND DOC. No. 81; PAGE NO. 17; SERIES OF 2006 OF NOTARY PUBLIC JUAN VICTOR VALDEZ
(PDI- Aug. 13, 20 & 27, 2006)

Notice is Hereby given That the estate of the late RODRIGO I. CRUZ,SR. and LETICIA A. CRUZ has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs before Notary Public EUTROPIO A. MIGRINO as Per Doc.133,Page no 28 Book No. II Series of 2006
(PDI Aug 6,13 &20,2006)

Notice is Hereby Given that the Estate of the late PETRONILO A. RIVERA was Extrajudicially settled among His Heirs as per Doc no.93 Page no. 20 Book no. 66 Series of 2006 Notary Public Atty. LOPE M. VELASCO of Manila
(PDI-Aug 6,13,20'06)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ANTONIO R. HERNANDEZ has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 472, Page No. 95, Book No. 102, Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Jose L. Sta. Ana of Marikina City.
(PDI-August 13, 20 & 27, 2006)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late REMEDIOS MANIULIT YOUNG was extrajudicially settled among her heirs by virtue of the Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement and Partition executed by them on July 27,2006 before Notary Public Atty.Ma. TERESA GOMEZ-VALDEZ of Quezon City City as per Doc.No. 287,Page No.59,-Book No. 23,Series of 2006 of her Notarial Register.
(PDI Aug.13,20 & 27'2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS
Notice is Given of lost Bank of PI Certificate No. 215543 Issued To FRANCIS V. VERGEL DE DIOS.If No Contest Received New Certificate will be issued
(PDI Aug. 13,20&27,2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Lost Passport w/ no. 20837807 Issued on May 5,2003 in California USA valid until May 4,2013 Pls Notify Ms. Brenda P. Dizon Cell# 0917-471-5218(PDI Aug. 20,2006)

Notice given SMC Stock Cert 01630204107 issued to TERESA EVARISTO Lost If no contest received new cert be given(PDI 20&27,'06)

Notice is given that stock Cert. No. 5219 issued by Equitable Banking Corp. to MARCELO DEE covering 45,000 shares has been lost. If no contest is received new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Aug. 6, 13, 20, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that Valley Golf Stock Cert. No 2773 for 1 share issued to Mariano G. Ong was reported lost. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-August 20, 2006)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late REMEDIOS MANIULIT YOUNG was extrajudicially settled among her heirs by virtue of the Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement and Partition executed by them on July 27,2006 before Notary Public Atty.Ma. TERESA GOMEZ-VALDEZ of Quezon City City as per Doc.No. 287,Page No.59,-Book No. 23,Series of 2006 of her Notarial Register.
(PDI Aug.13,20 & 27'2006)

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(PDI Aug. 13,20&27,2006)

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Notice given SMC Stock Cert 01630204107 issued to TERESA EVARISTO Lost If no contest received new cert be given(PDI 20&27,'06)

Notice is given that stock Cert. No. 5219 issued by Equitable Banking Corp. to MARCELO DEE covering 45,000 shares has been lost. If no contest is received new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Aug. 6, 13, 20, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that Valley Golf Stock Cert. No 2773 for 1 share issued to Mariano G. Ong was reported lost. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-August 20, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that ALI Stk Cert Nos. 24155 & 99018071 in the name Frank Gonzalez & Cert #24156 in the name Frank gonzalez &/or Eduardo de Tavera & GLO Stk Cert #11252, 8800001865 in the name Fineas Bebeco Inc. are lost. If no contest received,new stock cert. will be issued.
(PDI-Aug.20, 27 & Sept. 3,2006)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

In order to facilitate effective and efficient implementation of PODER Project by providing an intensive technical assistance and ensure quality compliance of requirements and viability of sub-project proposal, the KALAHI-CIDSS National Project Management Office (NPMO) shall engage the services of an Infrastructure Engineer for PODER who shall perform the following functions:

1. Provide technical assistance on the general direction for over all management of *Poder Y Prosperidad Dela Communidad* Infrastructure projects;
2. Recommend revisions to the Community Infrastructure Manual and other guidelines if necessary to improve implementation in the communities;
3. Review and revise Infrastructure forms to simplify and streamline sub-projects documents as may be appropriate;
4. Provide technical skills training and coaching on Community Infrastructure to Project Staff (National and Regional) and Barangay Sub-Projects teams;
5. Provide technical assistance to the community on contract packaging, contract administration supervision and monitoring;
6. Review and evaluate community sub-projects sustainability and viability;
7. Monitor performance of the project staff on the Community Infrastructure Implementation;
8. Conduct on-site Technical, Fiduciary and Sustainability review with beneficiary communities, based on a sample of barangays;
9. Recommend enhancement of monitoring tools to further familiarize and improve skills and awareness of the community and project staff;
10. Ensure that all Community Infrastructure transactions are done in accordance with the agreed arrangement with the donor;
11. Prepare reports required by the Project;
12. Perform other duties as assigned by the Project Manager;
13. The Consultant shall report directly to the National Project Manager and shall provide, on a semi-monthly (15th and 30th of the month), a written accomplishment report.

Qualifications

1. Must be Licensed Civil Engineer
2. Computer Literate, proficient in Microsoft Excel, Word, Access and other engineering softwares;
3. With five years minimum working experience in rural development, three years of which in foreign Assisted Project. Intensive experience in preparing Project Proposals (i.e. Program of Work – POW, detailed estimates, technical plan and other technical requirements), supervision and monitoring of community projects;
4. Experienced on Procurement and contract management, knowledgeable with the Philippine Procurement Law (RA 9184) and foreign assisted procurement laws;
5. Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Filipino (knowledge of Philippine local languages is an advantage);
6. Possess an excellent analytical skill and work attitude;
7. Hardworking and willing to work/travel to remote areas in the country.

Interested Applicants shall submit an application letter addressing the main requirements of the position and attached written reports like Project Proposal and Procurement Packaging and Evaluation prepared/conducted, to the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at 2nd floor, DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone number 931-8101 loc. 217 /951-71-16 (Fax) e-mail: bacsec@dswd.gov.ph; dswdbacsec@yahoo.com, until August 18, 2006.

(Sgd.) **FLORITA R. VILLAR**
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson, BAC

(PDI – Aug. 20, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: www.lto.gov.ph

04 August 2006
MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR 738-2006

TO : **LTO Accredited Manufacturers, Assemblers, Importers, and Dealers of Motor Vehicles, LTO Regional Directors, and LTO Employees Concerned**

SUBJECT : **Purging or Deletion of MAIDRS Transactions Which have Remained Unpaid for Five (5) Working Days**

In line with the on-going efforts to improve the performance of the LTO-IT system, all MAIDRS (manufacturer, assemble, importer, and dealer reporting system) transactions such as stock reports which have remained pending or unpaid at the LTO cashier level for five (5) working days shall be automatically deleted or purged. In this regard, all documents relative to purged transactions shall be returned to MAIDRS operators for refiling.

Automatic purging shall begin after 15 (fifteen) days from date this Order is published in a newspaper of general circulation. All orders that are in conflict herewith are hereby superseded.

For dissemination and compliance.

(Sgd.) **ANNELI R. LONTOC**
Assistant Secretary

(PDI – Aug. 20, 2006)

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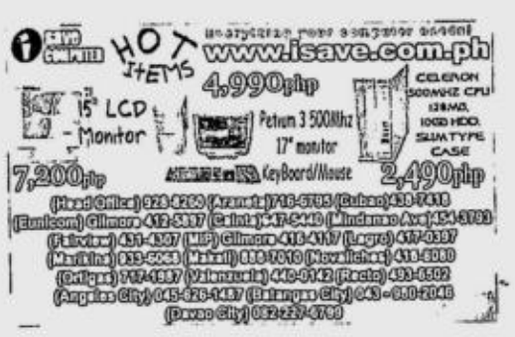

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

OPTOMETRIST 6877809

SONOGRAPHER RRT w/ Exp. in Ultrasound 682-1672

To: Job Applicants, send resume at admin@elalon.com.ph or call 8231834 Qualifications: Computer literate, good command of English both oral/writing, between 21-25 years old.

WANTED:SALES ASS. 21-26F FRIENDLY, 2+RCOL, WRK EXP. 09215387796;09178572448

OFFICE STAFF STAY-IN (F) •552-9245/729-5838•

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
GUAGUA, PAMPANGA

April 28, 2006

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (PELCO II) WITH OFFICE ADDRESS AT SAN ROQUE, GUAGUA, PAMPANGA IS INVITING ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FIVE THOUSAND (5,000 PIECES) PIECES ELECTRONIC METER.

Specification:

Electronic Meter
2 Wire, 10 (60) Ampere
Bottom Type or Socket Type
Note: For Socket type include the meter base

You are therefore invited for the pre-qualification to bid on August 23, 2006 (Wednesday), 10:00 A.M. at PELCO II Board Room, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga wherein there will be an orientation and discussion with regards to the specification of the unit and in preparation for the bidding proper scheduled on August 29, 2006 (Tuesday) at 10:00 A.M.

Please be informed that non-attendance on scheduled pre-qualification to bid is an outright discussion for those bidders who would want to join the bidding proper.

To all interested bidders please prepare the following documents for your accreditation. (For non-accredited supplier only).

1. Company's Profile
2. Latest ITR
3. Mayor's/Business Permit
4. Audited Financial Statement
5. DTI and SEC Registration
6. Accreditation Fee (P1,000.00)
7. Bid Documents Fee to be determined on the Pre-Qualification Day
8. Bid Bond:
   a. Cash/Managers Check - 2.5% of the total bid price
   b. Surety Bond - 10% of the total bid price

For more information please see/contact Engr. Raul L. Canlas at PELCO II Office or dial number (045) 900-2650.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. RAUL L. CANLAS**
PBAC Chairperson

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **MR. SULPICIO C. LAGARDE JR.**
General Manager

(PDI – August 20 & 21, 2006)

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City

is now accepting application for
Academic Year 2007

FELLOWSHIPS:

I. Pediatric Cardiovascular Medicine Department
   - 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
   - at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics

II. CV Anesthesiology Division
   - 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

III. Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Division
   - 3 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS (Board eligible)

RESIDENCES: (For Medical Board Passers)

I. CV Radiological Sciences Division
II. Biological and Clinical Laboratory Division
III. Nuclear Medicine Division
   - 1 year Fellowship Program is available for the above Residencies

General Requirements:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (with at least one letter written by the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous Training Programs (duplicate letters or photocopies signed by different Doctors will not be accepted)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency

- Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2006
- Academic Year 2006 starts on January 1, 2007

Please address your communications to:
ARISTIDES G. PANLILIO, M.D.
Department Manager
Department of Education, Training and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion or Ms Cleopatra Q. Palencia with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236, 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

(PDI – July 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 Aug. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28, 2006)

Bautista leads committees at CREBA annual confab

THE CHAMBER OF REAL Estate and Builders' Associations (CREBA), recently announced the holding of its Annual National Convention from Oct. 19, 20 and 21, at the Camp John Hay, Baguio, with the theme: "Pro-active Response to Property Trends and Opportunities".

The convention will be conducted in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Tourism, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, Board of Investments, and the Philippine Retirement Authority.

Techie Bautista and Pedro Tario, convention chair and national president, respectively, said that aside from providing participants the rare opportunity to enjoy the cool ambiance and posh facilities of Camp John Hay, the convention more importantly aims to provide the forum for real estate stakeholders to be apprised of recent business opportunities and trends gathering momentum in the world's real estate market and the response thereto by Creba and its convention partners.

Overall vice-chairs are Reghis M. Romero and Victor H. Manarang. Committee chairpersons are Teresita C. Millan–finance and budget, Myrna delos Reyes–administration, Melanie Lapore–Ways and Means, Lynn Maceda–CREBA Chorale;

Benson Perelonia–Conference 3, Jerry M. Navarette–Conference 1, Tess Millan–Finance/Budget, Manny T. Ramos–Golf Tournament, Connie Beltran– Marketing and Attendance, Delfin Wenceslao–Ways and Means, Edith L. Manansala–PR and Media Affairs;

Rene Dragon–Conference 2, Tom Panis–Regional Exhibit and Tiangge, Eugene C. Yu–Chapter participation and Workshop, Willy Jasarino–Resolutions, Nestor S. Mangio–Conference 1. Host Chapters are Tony Buenavista and Jane Cosalan–Baguio Chapter and Ambie Valero–La Union Chapter.

For more information, you may call the CREBA secretariat at 373-22-70- to 75.

People, Events & Products

Intel Philippines celebrates Global Earth Day

CELEBRATING MOTHER EARTH IS always a big to-do for Intel Technology Philippines. After all, all over the world, the microchip giant is an advocate of environment-friendly practices. And in the Philippines, it is no different.

April 22 was the Philippine site's Global Earth Day Celebration. And what a celebration it was! The day kicked off with a parade around General Trias, the municipality where the CV site is located. Joining the quick walk in and around General Trias, complete with band accompaniment, were Intel Involved (Intel's employee volunteer group), members of the Intel Community Advisory Panel (Icap), teachers, local government officials and employees, senior citizens and other company-locators of the different economic zones in General Trias. It was a parade of at least a thousand people!

Green for water

One highlight of the Global Earth Day event was the Water for Life signature campaign.... By imprinting a green paint-stained hand onto the signature canvass, one committed to pull all stops to conserve water. Leading this "oath-taking" of sorts was Intel Community Relations Manager Chona Ignalaga. Others who placed their hand imprints on the canvass were General Trias Mayor Luis Ferrer IV, Vice Mayor, Honorable Fernando Campana, municipal councilors, ICAP officers, and other environment leaders and lovers.

Straight from the mouth of babes! Not to be left behind by their adult counterparts, grade school children shared their thoughts and ideas on how to preserve the natural resources of Mother Earth. The kids drew their thoughts and gamely told their audience about their artwork. Nicole of Sta Clara Day Care Center said that trees should be planted to avoid landslides. Trees were also the beautifier of the environment, said a pupil from the Bacao Day Care Center.

Don't throw tissue

"Don't throw tissue into the sea so that the fish will not die," was one idea shared by JM of Sta Clara Day Care Center.

And a pupil from the Corregidor Day Care Center said that a clean environment made for healthy citizens.

Trees, trees and more trees. And what Earth Day celebration will be complete without a tree planting activity? Mayor Ferrer spearheaded this hot and sweaty activity. Around 200 ylang-ylang trees were planted (and are now thriving!) along the stretch of Buenavista III to Manggahan (major thoroughfares in General Trias). The young Mayor, under the heat of the sun, gamely shoveled and firmly put a tree guard to protect the tree that he planted.

In a brief interview with a couple of media people, Mayor Ferrer expressed his gratitude not only to Intel, but to the other business locators in the economic zones for their support of various environment programs. "Earth Day has been a catalyst for the different sectors to work together," he said.

Information sharing. Knowledge enhancement is counted among the objectives of celebrating Earth Day. And at the all-day event of Intel and other environment enthusiasts, no less than the President of the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF), Mr Lory Tan, gave a presentation on marine life preservation, water conservation, and the state of the Philippines' environment. More importantly, he shared the role that citizens can play in environmental protection. Bottomline, it is up to each and everyone to ensure that Mother Earth is enjoyed by many, many, many future generations to come. Ignalaga also did a demonstration on waste management and recycling. All day long, leaflets on how to conserve energy and water were distributed to participants and visitors alike.

For the love of the environment. Global Earth Day was celebrated on a Saturday, a weekend, usually a day of rest... And still people joined the many activities to give thanks and kudos to Mother Nature. April 22 was a red letter day, indeed. It was a day that people turned out in full force to show how much they love Mother Earth. What a day!

EPLDT, ASIA UNITED BANK SIGN PARTNERSHIP DEAL

ePLDT, the country's premier Information and Communications Technology company, recently sealed a strategic partnership agreement with Asia United Bank (AUB), making the commercial bank a partner payment facility of ePLDT's Get Loaded. Through the partnership, Get Loaded merchants can easily settle their transactions for purchase of electronic PINs and other e-commerce services by transferring funds from their BancNet-member bank accounts to their AUB Preferred Cash Card. Shown on photo are (from left) ePLDT head for e-commerce services Josette Lloren, ePLDT chief operating officer Helen T. Marquez, ePLDT chief financial officer George H. Tan, AUB executive vice president for institutional banking Victor Y. Lim, AUB senior vice president for BBG-operations Francisco Caparros, Jr., and AUB senior vice president for branch banking Rustico C. Nazareno during the MOA signing.

MISS INTERNATIONAL AT GCA'S ANNUAL TEACHER'S SEMINAR

She may not be the prettiest, definitely not the tallest, but she still emerged the brightest among a handful of hopefuls as she had God to back her up. And the rest, as they say is history. Recaps Miss International 2005, Precious Lara Quigaman, as she graces the 2nd Great Christian Academy (GCA) Annual Teacher's Convention last May 24 to 26, with the theme 'Inspire, Care, Educate,' held at the JTF sanctuary, 2nd floor, GCA Bldg., Sun Valley Drive, SVS, Parañaque City. A group of teachers - from various fields - came from different parts of Parañaque City to participate in the seminar. Shown is Precious Lara Quigaman with some of the teachers and school officials

'Sale! Sale!' at Market! Market!

ALL ROADS LEAD TO MARket Market! for its mallwide "Sale! Sale!" ongoing until today, Aug. 20. Visit its retail outlets and themed bazaars which showcase a wide array of products-from clothes and accessories to home furnishings and gadgets. Mall hours are extended from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. during the three-day sale to give shoppers more time to enjoy hunting for great bargains.

Mall-goers will also get to see the upcoming superstars of the Philippine Basketball Association. The annual PBA rookie draft is set to happen today at the Activity Center from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Market! Market! is open on Monday to Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Fridays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Located at Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, it can be reached by car, jeepney, FX or bus. A full service transport terminal is available for your convenience.

Treat yourself to a whole new twist to shopping, dining, and entertainment like you've never experienced before, only at Market! Market!, the latest innovation of the Ayala Malls Group.

MARKET! MARKET!
BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY
The fun is in the finds

Food supplement can help prevent blood clot

THE SO-CALLED LIFESTYLE DISEASES can actually be prevented as long as there is enough information given. It is a good thing that more people are getting more aware of what's good and what's bad for their body. However, there are diseases that can't sometimes be detected early. It does not help that its manifestations are normal occurrences experienced every day. Blood clot is one of the fatal reasons but not often attributed to deaths by heart attack or stroke (also called as brain attack). Researches show that 3 out of 10 deaths worldwide are caused by these two attacks. And this does not discriminate any age or gender.

"There are many causes how blood clot develops," says Lourdjean Carbajal of Sea Pharmacom Inc. People who are at risk to develop blood clots that can lead to a more serious disease are those in the middle age and older, obese or have high cholesterol level, women who have varicose veins, in menopause, and take birth control pills, smokers, people with a family history of diabetes, stroke, high blood pressure, heart disease, and even those who travel a lot. Carbajal also notes that when people age, certain parts of the body structure do not function as before. "One example is the blood vessel," she explains. "The blood vessel sort of hardens and the blood doesn't flow as smooth as before."

It is hard to spot if a person suffers from blood clot. "There are manifestations not really symptoms," says Rod Munsayac, director for operations of Sea Pharmacom Inc. "Stress, cramps are sometimes normal and could be felt by many so one cannot recognize it," he adds. Often, when one has a high blood pressure it can be suspected that some blood vessels are already clogged, according to Munsayac. And this can be fatal.

Individuals who already have certain diseases are prone to blood clot. The tendency for most patients afflicted with sickness is to concentrate more on the diagnosed disease, unconsciously forgetting the total health.

68% of diabetics

Statistics show that 68 percent of diabetics sometimes neglect the possible serious complications of a cardiovascular disease. Two out of three diabetic patients die of heart attack and stroke. Also, diabetic adults carry three to four times the risk of these fatal attacks than non-diabetics.

It's a good thing that living a healthy lifestyle is now widely promoted. Regular exercise and eating the right food greatly helps in preventing blood clot. Taking accredited medicines or food supplements is another way of avoiding this. For many years, the Chinese have been taking Plasmin, a therapeutic supplement that is 100 percent natural. Plasmin was first introduced in the Philippines two years ago by Sea Pharmacom. This breakthrough food supplement contains three clot-dissolving enzymes. Collagenese, profibrinolysin activator, and fibrinolysin work in synergy to dissolve blood clots which support diabetes control and cardiovascular health in the process.

Clinical studies have proven the benefits of Plasmin in patients with diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. Among them: reduction in numbness and dizziness, recovery of sensation and function of the arms and legs, improvement in breathing and speech, reduction in blood pressure and chest pain, reduction in blood sugar and cholesterol levels, and increased physical energy. Plasmin is free from side effects and can be safely combined with medications for hypertension, diabetes, stroke and health disease. It is now widely circulated in many parts of the world.

Sea Pharmacom decided to bring it to the Philippines in order to assist and educate people that blood clot can be prevented. For inquiries call: 894-2932, 894-2667 or 0919-6250944. Visit their website: www.seapharmacom.com

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2006
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JOINT VENTURE OFFICER
- Graduate of a 4-year college degree in related field; MBA degree a plus
- Excellent communication skills
- With expertise in the field of real estate
- Excellent project management, presentation, and business analysis skills

RECRUITMENT OFFICER
- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- With at least 2 years experience in recruitment in a supervisory capacity
- In-depth knowledge in test administration and interpretation
- Preferably not more than 32 years old

PRODUCT MARKETING HEAD
- Graduate of a 4-year college degree in related field; MBA degree a plus
- Will be responsible for the development, enhancement and management of bank's products and services
- Must provide strategic direction on overall performance of all product categories
- Must set to action the marketing strategies and other programs to achieve profitability targets
- At least 5 years hands-on experience

ACCOUNT OFFICERS
(Auto Loans/Special Lending)
- Must be graduate of a business related course
- Must have very good communication skills
- Preferably not more than 32 years old
- Must have 2-3 years experience in account solicitation of loans

OPERATIONS SPECIALIST
(Plaridel, North Metro Manila)
- Graduate of any 4-year business course, preferably CPA
- With thorough knowledge in branch banking operations
- With excellent communication skills
- With at least 2 years supervisory experience
- Computer literate

OTHER POSITIONS AVAILABLE :

Customer Service Assistants (Binondo, Commonwealth, Binakayan, Calamba, Betterliving, Manuela Edsa), Personal Banker (Edsa Pasay, N. Domingo), Auto Appraiser, CI Appraiser, Roving Tellers (Biñan),Accounting Staff, Admin. Asst.

Send/Bring your application letter, resumé, transcript of records, diploma, and 2x2 photo on or before August 25, 2006 to :

THE RECRUITMENT OFFICER
RCBC Savings Bank
Human Resources Management Division
1806B 18th Floor, West Tower, Tektite Bldg.,
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Email: lsaustria@rcbcsavings.com or gmendoza@rcbcsavings.com
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FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting or any business-related course
- With 3-4 years work experience as Financial Analyst
- Preferably a CPA
- Must possess good analytical and interpersonal skills
- Can work with minimum supervision

RECRUITMENT SUPERVISOR
- Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Behavioral Science, or Human Resource Management
- With 4-5 years work experience in the same capacity
- Good interpersonal skills and positive work attitude
- Willing to work long hours

HR ASSISTANT
- Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Behavioral Science, Human Resources Management or any related course
- At least 1 year work experience in Human Resources
- Preferably with experience in compliance support and interest in corporate social responsibility
- Good interpersonal skills and positive work attitude
- Willing to work long hours and do field work (must be familiar with the Metro Manila Area particularly government offices)
- Must be proficient in using MS Office particularly MS Excel

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS
- Bachelor's degree, preferably in a business-related course
- At least 2 years relevant work experience
- Excellent computer skills
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Good interpersonal skills and positive work attitude
- Willing to work long hours

PROJECT-BASED ANALYSTS/PROGRAMMERS
- With at least 3 years programming experience in VB6, VB .Net/ .Net, Delphi, SQL 2000, Crystal Report
- Experience in XML, XSLT Programming is a plus
- Have been involved in all phases of System Development Life Cycle : System Analysis, Design, Coding, Testing, Implementation and Documentation
- Must have a good grasp of business requirements
- Must possess good analytical and interpersonal skills
- Can work with minimum supervision

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Bring your resumé and other credentials at Room 703B Vicente Madrigal Bldg., 6793 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Look for MS. CARMIE
Tel. No.: 8171505/8113447/8915507

WANTED

10 – ALUMINUM CLADDER / INSTALLER

Apply in person at:
SILVER HORIZON CONSTRUCTION, INC.
SHTCI Bldg. No. 6 San Isidro St.,
Bo. Kapitolyo Subd. Pineda, Pasig City
Look for : Susan or Sheryll
Tel. Nos. : 632-0312
635-4839

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ASSISTANT COMMUNICATION OFFICER (MINDANAO-BASED)

The Mindanao-based Assistant Communication Officer will provide staff function to the UNICEF Area Office in Cotabato City and provide support in the implementation of LGU programme. The consultancy will be for eleven (11) months.

Description of Responsibilities
Under the general supervision of the Communication Officer, the Mindanao-based Asst. Communication Officer is expected to assists in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the joint UNICEF and Mindanao LGU advocacy and communication strategies to promote respect for childrens' and women's rights, and supports UNICEF's mission in the Mindanao region and the country. The Asst. Communication Officer will assist in developing and maintaining close collaboration with groups and organizations whose support is essential to the achievement of Mindanao advocacy and communication objectives. The Asst. Communication Officer will work closely with UNICEF assisted Mindanao LGUs, CPC6 Technical working Groups and Communication Task Forces. The Asst. Communication Officer will assist in drafting and editing articles, press releases, human interest stories and other advocacy/information materials. Also, the Asst. Communication Officer will help organize and generate public support for special events and activities to promote country programme goals.

Selection Criteria
- University degree or equivalent background in Communication, Journalism, International Relations, Communication Research, or other relevant discipline
- Willing to work in Mindanao
- Familiar with local customs/language a plus
- Ability to stimulate and organize grassroots community development efforts
- Familiar with human rights based approach to programming.
- Good analytical, negotiating, communication and advocacy skills.
- Knowledge of computer management and applications.
- Fluent in English and Filipino, both oral and written.

Please send your application on or before **August 28, 2006** to:

The HR UNIT
UNICEF Manila, 31/F Yuchengco Tower
RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City Fax: 901-0196
e-mail: **gpfernandez@unicef.org**
www.unicef.org

GEF

Philippine Efficient Lighting Market Transformation Program

The PELMAT Project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and implemented by the Department of Energy (DOE) is in search of qualified candidates for the post of Finance Officer to be based at the DOE Office in Taguig City.

The PELMATP is intended to address the barriers to widespread utilization of energy efficient lighting (EEL) systems in the Philippines.

Finance Officer (FO)

Initial duration of employment is one (1) year, but may be extended based on performance; directly supervised by Project Director.

II. Duties and Responsibilities

The **Finance Officer** shall be responsible for the accurate and appropriate recording of disbursements of Project funds; maintaining the set of books required according to UNDP accounting procedures, classifying and summarizing financial transactions of the project and the generation of required financial reports. He/She will also be responsible in updating all other books of accounts such as subsidiary ledgers and special registers. Specifically, he/she will be responsible for the following tasks:
- Installation and implementation of a GEF financial system that records transactions that utilize GEF Funds in accordance with UNDP's existing guidelines on national execution;
- Orientation of staff on the use of the project's financial systems and procedures;
- Proper recording of financial transactions and submit a regular report on the project's financial status;
- Certifying correctness of journals, vouchers, bills, statement of accounts, trial balance, budget estimates and other financial statement and records;
- Preparation of certification of the availability of funds and/or allotment of expenses, vouchers and requisition for supplies, materials, etc.;
- Preparation of annual and quarterly budgets including the necessary budget revisions based on the corresponding line-item-budgets approved by DOE;
- Establishment of a project account and ensure appropriateness and proper record keeping of transactions;
- Supervision of the preparation of payroll and general voucher of salaries, and other documentary requirements for disbursements;
- Preparation of updated reports on disbursements made by the project, and advise the Project Team on the overall financial status of the project;
- Preparation of a system of accounts that records all the in-cash and in-kind contributions of co-financing entities to the Project.

The **Finance Officer** will also provide technical inputs in the implementation of the various financing mechanisms that will be developed under the PELMATP.

III. Qualification and Experience
- Holds at least a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance, Commerce or related field preferably with postgraduate degree in the same or any other relevant field;
- Knowledge of and practical/relevant experience in accounting, budgeting, book keeping and with at least 2 years related work experience. Knowledge of UNDP accounting procedures is an advantage;
- Working knowledge of database, word processing and spreadsheet applications, as well as experience with accounting software;
- Good writing and oral communication skills;
- High level of attention to details in all aspects of work responsibilities;
- Ability to follow and comply with reporting procedures;
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to coordinate with multiple stakeholders; and
- Good organizational and time management skills;
- However, fresh graduates from reputable schools with outstanding scholastic records are encouraged to apply.

All application letters and comprehensive resumes should reach our office on or before August 25, 2006. Address applications to the PELMATP Project, Human Resource Department, Department of Energy, Energy Center, Meritt Road, Taguig, Metro Manila.

This advertisement shall remain posted in www.doe.gov.ph until August 25, 2006.

In the scope of our international expansion, we are currently looking for a professional who will represent us in the Philippines, based in the region of Manila.

TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE

• His tasks:
- build up a distributor network, search for new distributors, train the distributors and support them in making quotations, visit end customers, respond to all technical and commercial issues.

• His profile:
- Technical background should be higher technician in electro-mechanics or engineer with good knowledge of automation.
- Mininum sales experience of 4 - 5 years in the instrumentation market with similar products (such as flow meters, level measurement, etc.)
- Proficient in English, written and spoken
- Willing to travel frequently in his territory
- Willing to work under a 'self-employment' status
- Should be residing in the area of Manila.

• We offer:
- The integration and support of an international group, leading company in instrumentation
- A challenge to grow in the job, together with the company
- Competitive fixed monthly fee + commission + reimbursement of all professional expenses
- An in-company product training (Germany) is foreseen

In case you are interested, please e-mail your application and C.V. to Gerry Constantino at **constantino@eccp.com**

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

The KALAHI-CIDSS: KKB PROJECT is in need of a **Systems Engineer.** Below are the Qualification Requirements and Salary Rate of the above-mentioned staff:

Qualification Standards:
- Graduate of Computer Engineering, ECE, Computer Science, or other related field;
- At least 2 years experience on hardware and software installation and maintenance of the following operating systems: Windows 9x, XP, 2000 Professional, Windows 2000 Server/Advanced Server, Linux;
- Preferably with programming skills on MS Access, MS SQL 2000/ 2005, HTML and ASPX;
- Willing to travel;
- With good oral and written English communication skills;
- Relevant training and certification is a definite plus.

Responsibilities:
- The Systems Engineer shall work in close supervision with the Database Administrator and/or the National Project Manager of KALAHI-CIDSS;
- Responsible for periodic and corrective maintenance of computer hardware and related systems (i.e. OS, e-mail, network, software suites);
- Install and configure computer hardware and related systems according to specification and standards;
- Makes technical recommendations on computer hardware and related systems requirements;
- Assist in installation of systems. Submit service report on every after maintenance service rendered;
- Provide auditing feedback and statistical information regarding computer systems, facilities and users as a basis of improvement. Responsible for Hardware and Software testing;
- Carry out jobs assignments as requested by DBA/NPM;
- Managing and maintaining of Local Area Network.

Monthly Salary: P24,000.00 (SG24) under MOA arrangement

Please submit your Application Letter and Curriculum Vitaé to Ms. Rushell Ronda of CPDD at 1st floor, DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with contact nos.: 951-2807; 951-4919-23 local 101 and 102 on or before August 29, 2006.

INTERNAL AUDITOR

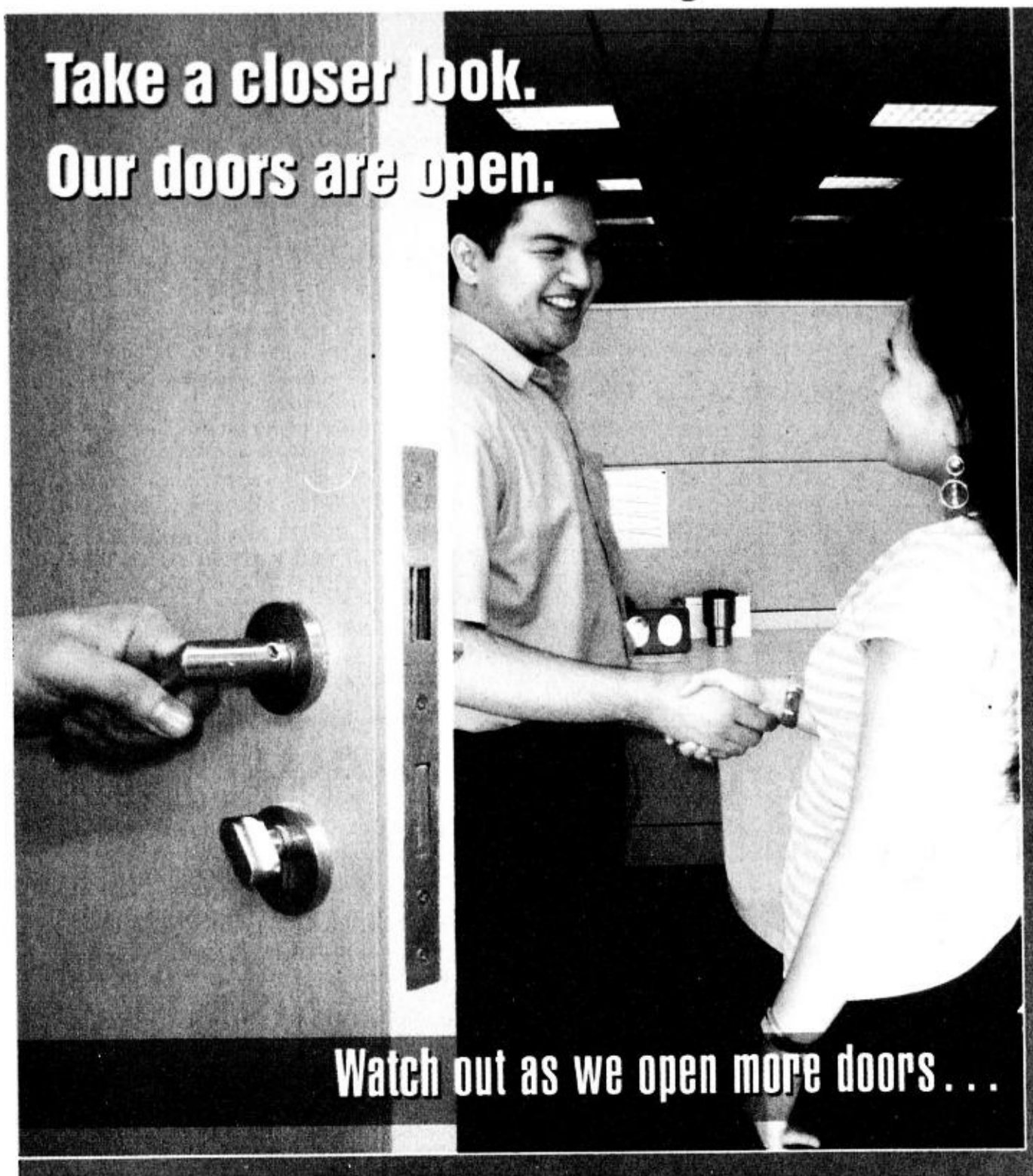
CPA with at least 5 yrs experience, not more than 35 yrs old, computer literate.

LEGAL SECRETARY

College graduate preferably Legal Management or A.B. English, not more than 25 yrs old, computer literate, with good communication & writing skills.

Qualified applicants may send detailed resumé with references and recent 2x2 photo, Transcript of Records and other credentials to:

C.P.O. Box 1981, Makati City
E-mail: **mikaelagbautista@yahoo.com**



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Each day is an opportunity to perform at peak and be recognized. That's people-development behind the doors of Convergys.

We are looking for individuals with passion for learning and drive for success.

INBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES
(Alabang, Commonwealth, or Makati)

OUTBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES
(Makati)

TECHNICAL CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES
(Commonwealth, Makati, or Ortigas)

CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE - COLLECTIONS
(Ortigas)

FINANCIAL CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE
(Ortigas)

INBOUND/ OUTBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE – MULTI-LINGUAL
(Ortigas - email your resume to alex.raymundo@convergys.com)
Daytime openings for Mandarin/ Cantonese/ Fookien speaking agents

Visit any of our sites from Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm, and experience faster processing. You may also email your resume to philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com.

Free food will be served to walk-in applicants at our Makati site from August 22-25, 2006 and get a chance to win Electronic Ayala Mall gift certificates during job offer!

Apply at our Ortigas site from August 23-25, 2006 for a chance to win an MP3 Player and other exciting gift items!

Apply at our U-Belt site from August 21-25, 2006 for a chance to win gift certificates during job offer!

Free food will be served to walk-in applicants at our Commonwealth site on August 23, 2006.

Commonwealth Office
2/F Diliman Commercial Center, #46 Don Mariano Marcos Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
(02)756-7088

Makati Office
Convergys One, 6796 Ayala Ave., cor Salcedo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
(02)756-7188

Ortigas Office
24th Floor, Robinsons Equitable Tower, #4 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City
(02)857-7678

Alabang Office
Block 44, Northgate Cyberzone, Muntinlupa City
(02)758-1688

U-Belt Office
Level 1, St. Thomas Square 1150 España Boulevard cor. Padre Campa St. Sampaloc, Manila
(02)735-2006

Cebu Office
R. Arcenas St., Arcenas Estate Banawa Hills, Cebu City
Tel # 032 416 5810

For U-Belt applicants, we accept walk-ins Mondays to Sundays, 10am to 7pm.

We offer attractive compensation and benefits packages. Additional rewards and incentives are given to top performing agents. Applicants with resume, NBI Clearance, TIN and SSS number will be prioritized.

For information on how to apply, text CVG HELP to 2306 Globe/Touch Mobile or to 2951 Smart/AMP/Talk & Text.

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PHOENIX LAND

PHOENIX LAND INC. is a premiere real estate company engaged in developing high-end residential and resort projects. Our flagship project is **Las Haciendas Resort Farms**, an exciting 342-hectare resort-farm project in Laurel Batangas facing the scenic Taal Lake and volcano.

We offer monthly allowances, generous Commissions, monthly and quarterly incentives and marketing support and collaterals for lucky candidates who will occupy the following positions:

SALES DIRECTOR

- Between 35 to 45 years old
- Must have at least 5 years experience managing sales teams/divisions
- Must already have an established network of sellers; network is an advantage
- Must have strong training and motivational skills
- Must possess good track record in selling
- Must have strong presentation skills

SALES MANAGER

- Between 30 to 40 years old
- Must have at least three (3) years extensive experience in Sales & Marketing from a Real Estate Firm
- Preferably with existing local network
- Must possess good track record in selling
- Knowledgeable in project presentation

PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

- Graduate of any four year course
- With at least one (1) year experience in selling real estate properties
- Must have sold properties worth 1.5M and above
- Must have an established network of clients

Please submit your resumé with 2x2 picture @ 11/F BDO Plaza, #8737 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City and look for Ms. Vangie Ramos. You may also email your resumé at ehramos@lashaciendas.com.ph / vangieramos@yahoo.com. For other details contact 8128490 or 8125059

EPSON SOFTWARE ENGINEERING PHILIPPINES, INC.

START YOUR CAREER RIGHT...

..join us in our EXPANSION

We have been in operation in CEBU for almost two years, mainly to develop software for Seiko Epson Corporation's products namely: Terminal Printer's new technology software (drivers, utilities, applications); Color Management Technologies (color graphics compression, color matching); Software for PC POS (point of sales) related products; Software for Digital Camera; Software for Multimedia Projector; Software for Scanner and Software for other EPSON products.

We have mastered our way to the path of IT business structure and development and are expanding to tread on the standardization of the development process and indulge more on the latest technical knowledge and Image Engineering. Thus, we are inviting highly qualified applicants from **VISAYAS and MINDANAO.**

1) POTENTIAL TO BECOME PROJECT LEAD/MANAGER:

AGE between 25 years old to 35 years old
MUST have the following actual experience:
- ✓ Software development project leading (minimum of 1 year experience).
- ✓ General C/C++ programming (minimum of 3 years experience)

AT LEAST with actual experience on either of the following:
- ✓ Windows applications or device driver development.
- ✓ Linux application or device driver development.
- ✓ Macintosh application or device driver development.
- ✓ Embedded firmware development.
- ✓ Any realtime operating system application or device driver development.

With actual experience on either of the following is an ADVANTAGE:
- ✓ TCP/IP socket network programming.
- ✓ Multimedia CODEC development.
- ✓ Digital signal processing.
- ✓ OpenGL and DirectX programming.
- ✓ UML or SDL tool experience

PROCESS MANAGEMENT ENGINEER:

WITH extensive knowledge or experience in:
- ✓ CMM (Capability Maturity Model)
- ✓ ISO-9000 for software industry

AGE between 25 years old to 35 years old.

2) ASSISTANT MANAGER:

AGE between 25 years old to 35 years old.
At least 2 years working experience as an Assistant Manager in an IT industry.
An assistant Manager specializing in IT/Computer-Software development.

3) TEAM LEADER:

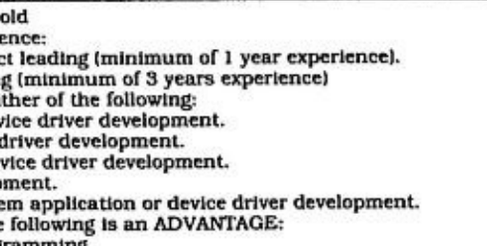
AGE between 25 years old to 30 years old
At least 2 years experience in handling a team in an IT related project.

4) SUPERVISOR:

AGE between 25 years old to 30 years old
At least 2 years working experience in related field is required.

"Only applicants from VISAYAS and MINDANAO who are willing to work in Cebu are welcome to apply"

EPSON
EXCEED YOUR VISION



Epson Software Engineering Philippines, Inc.
-CEBU OFFICE
c/o Takezawa Technology Transfer & Industrial Consultancy, Inc. (TTT-ICI) Unit-K 3rd Floor Westgate Tower, Investment Drive Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City Email: tttici@pldtdsl.net (Subject: EPSON)

Send your resumé instantly.
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WANTED IMMEDIATELY
GRAPHIC ARTIST
Male/Female, 2-3 yrs. exp., computer literate – adobe, corel, photoshop & autocad.
QUALITY CONTROLLER
Chemist graduate, female, single
To assign in Laguna plant.
Contact: Arnel 8171054 • 0917-835-4243

i4 Asia Incorporated

Job Opening for the following:

- **PHP Developer**
  - Develop using PHP and MySQL
  - 2 to 4 years experience in PHP and MySQL
  - Working understanding of Linux, FTP, HTML and CSS
  - Ability to work with open source tools
- **Business Development Officers**
  - Will be responsible for product development and strategic planning
  - Experience in selling IT related solutions,hardware, or software
  - Must possess excellent communication and presentation skills

• Resumes sent via e-mail must be in OpenOffice.org, RTF or PDF ONLY.
• Resumes received in any other format will not be considered.
Email Resume to:
jobs@i4asiacorp.com

NOW HIRING

A prestigious company based in the Makati Commercial Business District is in immediate need of

FOUR (4) INVESTIGATORS

for its expansion program. Below are the qualifications for the vacant position:

- ✓ Female, between 24 to 35 years of age
- ✓ Investigative Journalism or Law Graduate
- ✓ Highly analytical & with data-gathering skills or abilities
- ✓ Keenly observant, thorough, resourceful & accurate
- ✓ Very keen to details
- ✓ Fluent in English & Filipino
- ✓ Proficient in oral & written communication
- ✓ Computer Literate

Interested applicants may bring their updated clearances or credentials and apply in person and in business attire at:

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
Suite 204 Cattleya Condominium, 235 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City between 8:00 am-5:00 pm

CAN YOU DRAW LIKE THIS?

IF THE *ANSWER* IS *"YES!"*, YOU NEED TO GET IN *TOUCH* WITH US REAL *QUICK!*

WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE ***BEST*** AND ***FASTEST*** LEAD SLINGERS AROUND TO JOIN OUR CREW *COMPOSED* OF SOME OF THE MOST TALENTED ***ARTISTS*** LOCALLY.

IF YOU THINK YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES, SEND US FIVE ***SAMPLES*** OF YOUR *WORK* AT:

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OR ***MAIL*** THEM TO:

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AMORSOLO ST., MAKATI CITY

WE OFFER ***VERY*** COMPETITIVE RATES AND BENEFITS, A CREATIVE ENVIRONMENT, AND A CHANCE TO WORK WITH ONE OF THE COOLEST ***STUDIOS*** THERE IS.

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http://storyboardsonline.com and http://animaticmedia.com
For inquires contact jonas@storyboardsonline.com.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

CHIEF STEWARD

Male: 25-35 years old
Educational Attainment: College level
Must have good work experience in a management position in a luxury ship or yacht.
Will be given overall responsibility for domestic side of yacht.
Will train & supervise the activities of stewards, chef and assistant cook.
In-charge of all food preparations and budgets for food and beverages of guests and crew.

Salary negotiable.

THIS IS AN URGENT REQUIREMENT. ALL QUALIFIED CANDIDATES ARE REQUESTED TO EMAIL RESUME TO

ur.fortress@gmail.com.

We will only reply to qualified/shortlisted candidates.

FOUNDATION FOR THE PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT
Fostering Partnerships for the Environment

The Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE), an Environmental Fund for NGOs and POs, is looking for qualified staff to fill the position of

PROJECT OFFICER

General Description:

Who shall assist, in a proactive manner, in the development, assessment and monitoring of projects in the areas of assignment; and support the Regional Operations Manager in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of the Regional Operations Plan.

Minimum Qualifications and Experience:

- Bachelor's degree in forestry, agriculture, natural sciences, social sciences (sociology/ anthropology), environment science and management, development communications, community development or any related course.
- Three to five years experience working with non-government organizations(NGOs), peoples organizations (POs) and communities specifically on review, analysis, design and monitoring of sustainable community-based resources management programs, identification development and application of policies and laws on the environment
- Interest and willingness to be assigned in the Luzon regional office and monitor projects in the said region

Skills and abilities:

- Fluency in local languages of the area of assignment
- Adequate level of fitness
- Proficiency in use of computer software/ MS Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Adept in oral and written communication
- Comfortable in negotiation, networking and linkaging.

Successful candidate's engagement shall be for short term (maximum of five months) contract with possibility for long-term employment through regularization depending on performance.

Applications must be received not later than 01 September 2006.

Please mail your application letter, resume, diploma and transcript of records, xerox copy of your SSS ID and Tax Identification Number with latest 2x2 color photograph, to:

The HRDA UNIT
FOUNDATION FOR THE PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT
77 Matahimik Street, Teachers' Village, Diliman, Quezon City
fpemain@fpe.ph

ACCOUNT/SALES EXECUTIVE
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

1. Graduate of a 4-year Advertising/Business related course.
2. With at least 1 year experience in the field of Design and Advertising.

Send your resumé to
thinkpadd_inc@yahoo.com
761 Roxas Blvd. Tambo Parañaque.
You may also call **8549971** for details.

Thinkpaddinc.
Creativity that sells

GALILEO CERAMICHE

Italian Tiles Specialist & exclusive distributor of
Lea Ceramiche, Granite Fiandre, Leonardo, Floorgres, & other Italian Products

is in need of:

Sales Executives for Italian Tile Products

- Male or Female, 23-35 years old, College Graduate
- At least 1-2 years experience in Construction Industry
- Experience in selling tiles is an advantage
- Female: 5'2" tall; Male: 5'5" tall
- With pleasing personality
- Preferably knows how to drive & has a driver's license

Company Driver:

- Male: 27-35 years old
- With experience is a must

To apply bring your Resumé & Credentials with 2x2 picture at:

#13 Sanggumay St. Plainview Mandaluyong City
Tels. # 719-1038 / 532-5360 / 578-3832 look 4 Rosie
E-mail: galileo@mydestiny.net

PROSEL
PHARMACEUTICALS & DISTRIBUTORS, INC.

a 23-year old company that has grown steadily through the years is expanding with its new product lines and is in need of

15 MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES

IF YOU ARE...

- Self-driven
- Confident, persistent
- Experienced in Sales and Promotions as Medical Representative
  - Preferable but not necessary
- Willing to work extended hours
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines
- A graduate of a 4-year college course
- Can work with minimal supervision
- Have good verbal and written communication skills

Then, you are the right person we are looking for.

WE OFFER...

- Competitive salary
- Per Diem & Transportation allowance
- Generous commission
- Cell Phone allowance
- Year End extra months pay
- Housing allowance (if relocated)

Please submit a comprehensive resumé (detailing scope of work and pay history) with recent colored 2x2 picture on or before August 22, 2006 to the

HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
26-B 26th Floor, Chatham House Condominium
Corner V.A. Rufino & Valero Sts.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
or Email to proselmanila@pldtdsl.net

INTERVIEWS ARE SCHEDULED ON AUGUST 23, 24 & 25, 2006

KUWAIT AIRWAYS SINCE 1954
الخطوط الجوية الكويتية منذ عام 1954

KUWAIT AIRWAYS CORPORATION
is in need of
PASSENGER SALES REPRESENTATIVE

1. Male or Female
2. 5 years experience in Sales with minimum 3 years experience in the airline industry
3. College Degree Holder
4. Computer Literate
5. Good Oral and Written Communication Skills
6. Not over 35 years old

Attractive starting salary will be based on qualification and experience

Send your application with recent photo on or before 15 SEPT 2006 to:

Sr. Manager-Philippines
G/F JAKA II Bldg., 150 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, City of Makati
E-Mail – mnlsmku@kuwaitairwnys.com
Tel. No. 817-6376

A daily E-Newspaper producing several international edition is in need of the following:

Position: News Writer/Editor
Location: Makati City
Requirements
- A four-year degree in Mass Communication/Journalism
- Must have high analytical and comprehension skills
- Excellent English communication and grammar skills
- Top notch news writing/editing/ proofreading skills
- Proficient in typing and PC use
- Should be willing to work evenings and able to withstand the pressure from daily deadlines
- Those conversant in a third language have a definite advantage

Position: Programmer System & Network Administrator
Location: Makati City
Requirements
- Expert on Linux servers
- Knowledgeable in PHP or Perl programming
- Willing to work evenings (6 days a week, including week ends)
- Can Communicate in English with other IT officer and non technical people

E-mail resumé, including expected salary range (in .txt format) to nlp.jobs@gmail.com

RADIX
Systems Services Corporation

ACCOUNT SALES EXECUTIVES

Responsibilities:
- Achieving sales quota for IT services
- Handling basic technical discussions and understanding client requirements
- Reviewing resumes for needed skills to match requirements
- Managing existing clients and developing new accounts
- Developing strong customer relationship mostly with HR departments

Requirements:
- BS degree in any field; preferably Mass Communications, Business or Marketing
- Excellent verbal and written communication, presentation and analytical skills
- Experience in sales with excellent track record of achieving sales quota
- Results-oriented and able to work with minimum supervision, resourceful, must have initiative
- Good interpersonal skills to build rapport with customers and IT consultants

Send resumé with transcript of records and picture by Aug.31, 2006.

RADIX SYSTEMS SERVICES CORP.
Hino Building EDSA cor. Madison St. Mandaluyong City
Email: recruit@radixsys.com www.radixsys.com

ADVANCE
MICROSYSTEMS CORPORATION
your partner in E-Integration

account executives

Preferred applicants are those with sales experience gained from system integrators and I.T. corporate resellers. Must possess excellent communication and presentation skills. Aggressive and highly motivated. We offer attractive compensation and commission to qualified applicants.

**Persons not meeting qualifications need not apply.*

Qualified applicants may send resumé or apply personally at:
Unit 1104E 11/F East Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
E-mail: hrd@advance-microsystems.com
Website: www.advance-microsystems.com

A leading law firm in Quezon City needs

ASSOCIATE LAWYERS

- must have passed the Bar Exams in 2000 to 2002
- must have at least two (2) years experience in litigation
- graduates of U.P., Ateneo and San Beda preferred
- must be willing to do trial and corporate work
- resident of Quezon City preferred
- for prospective partnership

Please send comprehensive resumé with ID picture at:

Rm. 2K Edificio Enriqueta
422 N.S. Amoranto St., corner D. Tuason Ave.,
Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City, Metro Manila
or email us at **abogado_arcinas@yahoo.com**

A world-class restaurant in Makati is seeking the following positions:

Requirements: HRM or any related course is preferred.
Customer & Service Oriented; Good Attitude
Experienced in Restaurant Operations

Receptionist/Cashier Preferably Female (around 20-27 years old)
- 1-2 years experience in restaurant operations
- Good in written & oral communication skills; computer literate

Server Male or Female (around 20-30 years old)
- Good in written & oral communication skills

Busser Preferably Male (around 20-30 years old)
- Willing to learn

Kitchen Staff Male or Female (around 20-32 years old)
- Good personality; Team Player; willing to learn
- 1-2 years experience in kitchen operations
- Culinary school accepted as well

Submit to Belle, resumés with 2x2 ID picture by August 31 at LPL Tower 112 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

A.S.A.P.

A manufacturing firm is in need of the following personnel:

Accounting Clerk
Mechanical Engineer
Human Resources Manager
Marketing Manager
Plant Manager

Please send your resumé to:
P.O. Box 8098
1200 Makati City

WANTED
INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER
Requirements:
COSTING ASSISTANT FOR EXPORT COMPANY
- Male/Female pref. 25-35 yrs. old
- IE grad & must have at least 1 yr. exp. in product Costing in a manufacturing set up.
- Highly organized, analytical, efficient & keen on details
- Must be familiar with bill of materials & operations breakdown.

Email:
sfatallmaya@yahoo.com

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY
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INTERCONTINENTAL. HOTELS GROUP

EXPLORE THE MOST GLOBAL HOTEL COMPANY

InterContinental Hotels Group owns and manages a portfolio of well-respected brands recognized the world over. An industry pioneer, we are the largest hotel company by number of rooms and manage the world's largest loyalty program with 26 million members to date. Our expansion shows our commitment to sustained growth into the future. We seek enthusiastic, friendly people who will lend their talents to help us realize our vision of being the world's leading hospitality brand owner.

With more than 3,800 hotels in 6 continents across more than 100 countries, WE are the most global Hotel Company.

Our Philippine Reservations Center is looking for:

Customer Service Representatives / Reservation Sales Agents (English or Spanish)

Job summary
- Represents the Company by coordinating all aspects of Priority Club Programs and serves as liaison between the guest and hotels in order to maintain member satisfaction
- Delivers Individualized Customer Experiences by focusing on finding hotel accommodations that will best fit our guests needs

Requirements
- Must be a Bachelor/College degree holder
- Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills with one of the following languages: English or Spanish
- Customer service and/or sales experience an advantage
- Education and experience in the hospitality or IT industry an advantage
- Must be willing to work on a rotating shift

IHG Employees enjoy:

Great people & opportunities, training and development, bonus and benefits, discounts in any of our international hotel brands.

Other available positions:

E-Masters Specialists, Hotel Performance Specialists and Distribution Services Coordinators.

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ADDRESS 29/F, Tower II, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City TEL 8578800 EMAIL phlro.resumes@ichotelsgroup.com WEBSITE www.ichotelsgroup.com

DO YOU THINK DIFFERENTLY?

ExplorAsia, *an established business research & consulting provider in Asia, is inviting exceptional individuals looking to test the limits of their intellectual abilities, creativity and innovativeness, people who thrive on challenges, unlimited possibilities, and unparalleled learning.*

We are in need of:
- *Marketing & Business Development Manager*
- *Human Resources Officer*
- *Researchers/ Analysts*

Marketing & Business Development Manager

We are looking for an individual with immense creative potential, capable of leading the way in raising the awareness, interest and usage of the company's customized research services to a regional (Asia Pacific) and global market. Being in a highly unique and specialized field of service, catering to the corporate intelligence needs of top global companies, we expect to go beyond traditional approaches of marketing & business development. As such, while relevant past experience & knowledge is vital, of equal importance is the ability to craft new & innovative marketing campaigns worthy of a world-wide business audience.

Human Resources Officer

We need an individual with excellent interpersonal, communication and presentation skills. Strong administration skills will be a bonus. The person for the post should be organized, detail oriented, patient, resourceful, creative and adaptable. The individual must be willing to work long hours.

Relevant education and working experience is preferred.

Researchers/Analysts

We seek individuals with outstanding written and oral communication skills plus a strong online research capability. They must be able to work on complex situations that often may not have a prescribed solution. Analysts must have excellent problem-solving and analytical skills, including the ability to identify issues and propose methodological solutions.

We are looking for reliable, proactive, detail-oriented and organized persons who are able to multi-task in a fast-paced environment and can tolerate ambiguity. They should be fast learners who must be able to work with our highly collaborative team.

Having an advanced degree (like an MBA), foreign language skills and/or relevant work experience will be an added advantage.

Walk-in applicants will not be entertained. Please send your resume to jobs@exploraslamall.com along with a one-page essay on why you *want to work with us.*

EXPLORASIA covers every major industry, market and company on the continent, from the Pacific coast westward to India.

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ATTENTION: ALL LEADERS. DON'T miss this high-impact program—a distillation of important leadership principles and concepts, effective strategies, insightful ideas and inspiring stories and practical application derived from John Maxwell, Jack Welch, and other Leadership gurus. It is slated Aug. 31, 1–5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas.

This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles Inc, a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Hurry! Call us now while there are still seats available.

Practical tips in handling BIR Audit

DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL WORKshop slated on Aug. 23, 24, and 25, 1-5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas. CPE Credits will be given to CPA's.

Topics include Day 1: Letter of Authority; First, Second and Third Notice; Responsibility of Bookkeepers, Accountants. Auditors & Company Officers; Day 2: Handling of Report of investigation; Notice for Informal Conference; Preliminary and Final Assessment Notice; Day 3: BIR Subpoena Duces Tecum; DOJ Fiscal Duces Tecum; Preparing Counter Affidavit; Prepareation of Rejoinder; Fiscal Resolution; Ruling of Appeal to DOJ; etc. Registering for one day only is allowed, but people are encouraged to attend the whole program.

The seminar will have as its resource lecturer Prof. Emy Maestro, CPA; Founder of Tax Accountant Society, the National Organization of BIR Accredited Tax Agents; Founding Chairman of Auditor ng Bayan; and author of 14 books on Accounting and Auditing.

This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles Inc, a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Hurry! Call us now while there are still seats available.

US CPA exams now available in the CNMI

FILIPINO ACCOUNTANTS EYEING to acquire a license and work in the United States may take the US CPA licensure examination in the Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) today said.

The CNMI is a territory of the United States in the Western Pacific, which is nearer to the Philippines than the US mainland. It consists of 14 islands, the biggest of which are Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Saipan, in a report to Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said that the CNMI became the latest US jurisdiction that has been allowed to administer the US CPA examination. The other testing sites outside the US mainland include Guam and Hawai.

Brion welcomed this development, saying it opens the opportunity for Filipino accountants in the CNMI to acquire a US license and subsequently enjoy higher wages, not only in the CNMI, but also in other areas of the US.

He said that a non-US CPA licensee in the CNMI earns from US$3 to US$7 per hour, while those with a US license earns a minimum of US$24 per hour.

The DOLE chief added that this development would also encourage Filipino accountants in the Philippines to take the US CPA test in the CNMI, in view of its proximity and less stringent entry requirements.

Apart from the availability of a direct and cheaper flight from Manila to Saipan, which takes only three hours, CNMI also has control over immigration matters at lower costs.

The POLO has been supporting the association of Filipino accountants in the CNMI, the Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants (MIFICPA), in its conduct of US CPA review classes. It has allowed the association to use the Filipino Workers Resource Center in Saipan for its review classes.

The POLO also reported that the CNMI Board of Accountancy has already issued a request for interested companies to submit a proposal on the setting up and operations of a computer-based testing center for the conduct of the US CPA examination in the CNMI.

The board is projecting to conduct the first CPA test in the CNMI by summer of 2007.

Employers to pursue workplace population management, revision of Labor Code

ALARMED BY THE IMPLICATIONS of a continuing runaway population growth, the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) has vowed to mobilize the business community in institutionalizing a workplace population management program.

ECOP President Rene Y. Soriano told a news conference that the population management program would specifically dwell on family planning/responsible parenthood, elimination of sexual harassment and discrimination, awareness and prevention of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, and promotion of breastfeeding through milk stations for employed lactating mothers.

"We have engaged a good number of business organizations and companies and we are poised to broaden our campaign as well to be able to reach more, if not all business organizations throughout the country," Soriano stressed.

Soriano noted that it is "clear at this point that government cannot be solely relied upon to pursue a population reduction program." As a stakeholder in population and development, employers and the business sector have a crucial role to play in making a significant impact on the population problem, he said.

"The business sector is very much concerned about this development," Soriano said, noting that the absence of a comprehensive and sound national population management policy is "putting much strain on the country's resources."

Soriano pointed out that a high population growth results in larger families and repeated pregnancies that lower the participation rate of women in the workplace. "The net effect is aggravation of poverty incidence," he emphasized.

At the same time, the ECOP leadership raised the need to revise the "outmoded and archaic Labor Code" to address its inherent limitations and be attuned to the demands of labor flexibility. "The revision of the Labor Code is of critical significance in promoting a more flexible labor market conducive to enterprise development and employment generation," Soriano pointed out.

Soriano said policy reforms to be introduced in the 32-year old Labor Code should be geared towards increasing protection and benefits to those employed in the informal sector as well as providing them access to employment in the formal sector. In addition, he said the Labor Code must not only contribute to the development of enterprises but also ensure their sustainability and competitiveness.

"The Labor Code is biased in favor of the formal sector. The workers in the informal sector such as those working in unregistered economic units, the self-employed, homeworkers, domestic and unpaid family helpers, remain insecure in their employment, vulnerable to exploitation, and often trapped in poverty because they lack protection and representation," Soriano bewailed.

Jack Canfield's Mega Guru event in Manila

FROM MAKING ENDS MEET AS A teacher, to becoming a best-selling author with a Guinness world record, Jack Canfield knows what it takes to succeed. Jack Canfield is the founder and co-creator of the wildly popular book series, Chicken Soup for the Soul, as well as the author of a slew of other best-selling titles such as "Dare to Win", "Self-Esteem and Peak Performance", "The Power of Focus" and what is touted as the best book on personal development, "The Success Principles".

He is coming to Manila on Oct. 2 for his ITD-Mega Guru Event: Personal Excellence and Organizational Success. Jack will talk about fundamentals from "The Success Principles" as well as give more simple and straightforward advice on how to get from where you are, to where you want to be.

The ITD-Canfield Mega Guru event will be held on Oct. 2 at the Grand Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Galleria Hotel.

Register now and avail of special early bird rates. For details, call ITD Consulting at 887-7428 or email tdmanila@itd.com.my.

DOLE-NCR DIRECTOR TURNOVER CEREMONIES

PALSCON graces the DOLE-NCR Director Turnover Ceremonies on Aug. 14, 2006 at DOLE-NCR office in San Marcelino cor Malvar St., Malate, Manila. Shown from left are: Rowena Maceren, auditor of PALSCON; Loida Bautista, treasurer of PALSCON; lawyer Giovanni H. Melgar, president of PALSCON; lawyer Rebecca Chato, Director Bureau of Labor Relations; new DOLE NCR director, lawyer Lourdes M. Trasmonte; Rafael Chico, vice-president of PALSCON.

Industries in Metro Manila lead economy's industrial peace trend

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY Arturo D. Brion today acknowledged the role of the social partners from both labor and management, in significantly reducing strike incidence in the National Capital Region (NCR) through their matured avoidance of work site disputes, setting an example for the country's 15 other regions to follow.

A report reaching Brion indicates that only five strikes were registered among the many thousands of companies, whose respective operations are based in the NCR, in the first seven months of 2006.

The Labor Chief noted that through continuous conciliation and mediation, strike incidence in the country's leading region has been on a continuous decline since 1986, when an all time high of 333 strikes were declared in the area, representing almost sixty percent of the 581 strikes nationwide.

Consequently, the National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB) indicated that the downtrend in strike incidence in the NCR significantly reduced the number of strike-affected workers nationwide.

NCMB OIC-Executive Director Reynaldo Ubaldo apprised Brion that the number of workers affected by strikes nationwide declined drastically by 86 percent, to only 949 workers in the first seven months of 2006, compared to 6,985 in the same period last year.

ACCORD TO BOOST INDUSTRIAL PEACE, DIRECT ECONOMIC INVESTMENTS

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion (seated, left), and Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) Director General Lilia De Lima (seated, right) sign the implementing guidelines setting into motion the active pursuit of sound labor relations and industrial peace in all special economic zones in the Philippines. Witnessing the forging of the landmark accord are Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) president lawyer Rene Y. Soriano (standing, left), Philippine Transport and General Workers Organization (PTGWO) president Victorino F. Balais (standing, second from right), and other officials.

Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQuALLS) Project

Education Development Center is seeking experienced professionals to fill the following positions for the USAID-funded EQuALLS project in the Philippines. EQuALLS will work with a broad range of stakeholder organizations to strengthen formal and non-formal basic education for youth, ages 6-15 and 12-24 respectively, in Muslim areas of Mindanao.

Outreach and Communications Director, based in Manila, to develop and implement strategic 5-year communications and outreach plan and manage the production of a variety of print and electronic materials. The successful candidate will hold an undergraduate degree in mass communications, journalism, or related discipline, with a Master's or equivalent graduate level degree an advantage; have 5 years of senior-level experience in media and public relations, social mobilization and advocacy, events management, IEC, and related work at national and local levels; possess excellent oral and written communication skills in English and Filipino; possess effective networking, planning and management skills; and be able to travel in remote areas of Mindanao. Candidates should submit two writing samples or examples of publications with application.

Finance and Administration Director, based in Manila, to manage the project's financial and administrative systems and supervise the financial and administrative staff of a large complex program. The successful candidate will hold a Masters degree in business administration, finance, or related field; be a Certified Public Accountant; have a minimum of 5 years experience in finance and administration and a minimum of 2 years of experience working in an international donor-funded program, with experience with USAID financial systems highly desired; possess a working knowledge of Ms Word, MS Excel, SPSS; have excellent interpersonal skills and English oral and written communications skills; the ability to manage a large staff in multiple offices; be familiar with Philippine labor, tax and related laws; and able and willing to work and travel in Mindanao and Metro Manila.

Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, based in Mindanao, to manage the development and implementation of the project's monitoring and evaluation system and to provide technical assistance to the implementing partner organizations. The successful candidate will hold an undergraduate degree or higher in education or related field, with specialized training in M&E and performance/outcome evaluation; have 5 years experience in planning and coordinating M&E activities and in developing and managing a MIS; at least one year of experience with an international organization in the Philippines; have excellent English language skills; have excellent data analysis skills and a working knowledge of database design; and ability to work independently and in a team environment; Position requires travel within Mindanao and to Metro Manila.

Security Manager, based in Mindanao, to establish and maintain a secure operating environment for the project. Responsibilities include establishing and maintaining close working links with the AFP, PNP and other local agencies and offices responsible for security and order; securing project staff movements into and around project areas; developing and updating emergency response and evacuation plans for staff and their dependents when required; and conducting basic security awareness training for project staff. The desired candidate will be a former officer of the AFP, PNP or similar government agency with primary responsibility for order and security; have extensive experience in security operations in Mindanao, preferably with an intelligence and/or operations background; possess a thorough understanding of the security situation in the Philippines and in the ARMM and Regions IX and XII in particular; have experience and knowledge in responding to emergency situations; possess excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work in a multi-cultural environment.

Submission of Applications

Qualified candidates should email their applications complete with CV and reference contact details to the following address, no later than September 3, 2006. EDC is an equal opportunity employer. Salary and benefits will be commensurate with experience.

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The PDA-Parañaque Dental Chapter held its Second Scientific Seminar "All Wired Up," an all orthodontic seminar for general practitioners and specialists, with 20 Contact Points last Friday, Aug. 18, from 12 noon to 7:00 p.m. at the Sampaguita Hall of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Pasay City. The speakers were Drs. Cynthia Quismundo, Diane Lim, Laarni Serraon, and Dennis Lim.

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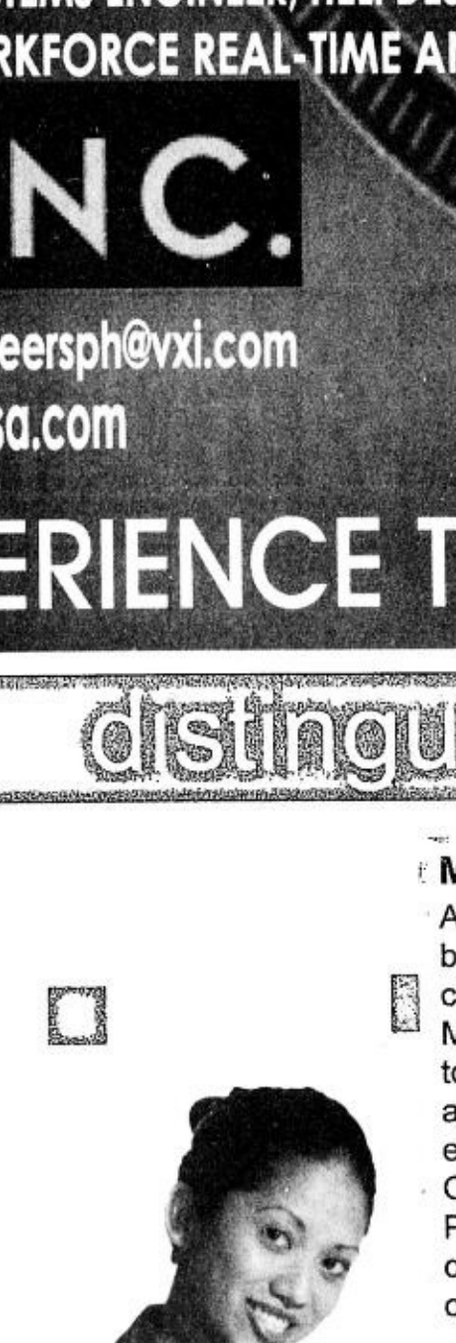

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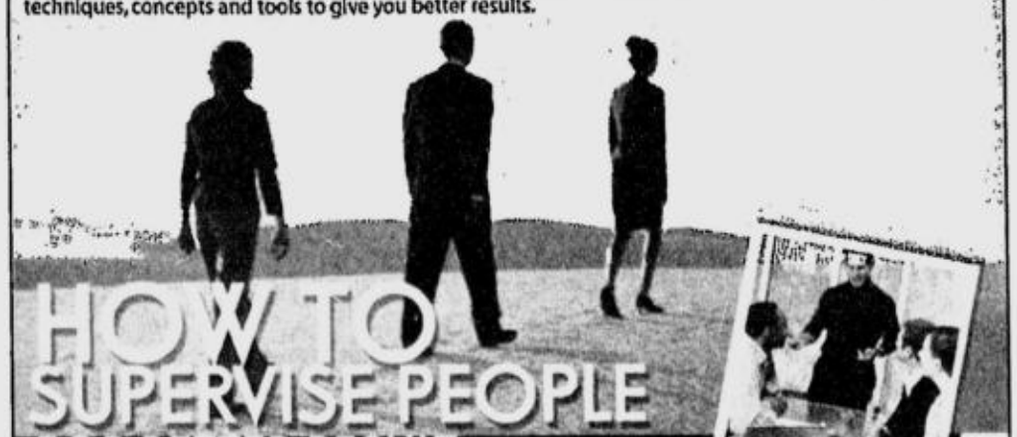

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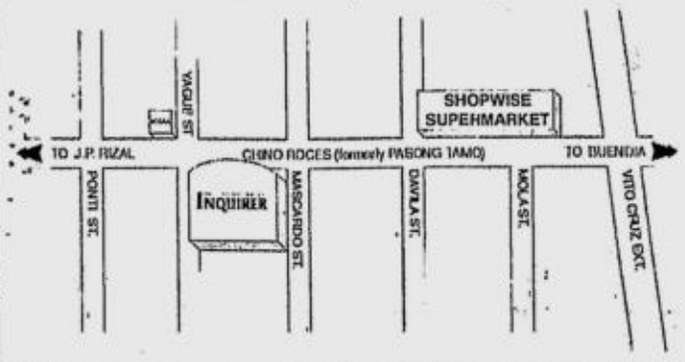

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- Assist in the maintenance of an internal and external database of personnel available for deployment in emergencies
- Update on a monthly basis the register, internal and external, verifying availability of people
- Assist in the maintenance of an expertise database for emergency

2) To assist in the maintenance of administrative systems for emergency response
- Update forms and formats of contracts
- Verify that systems are in line with Oxfam's systems
- Assist in the maintenance of e-networks for emergency preparedness and response

3) To assist in the preparation of systems for programmatic options for emergencies.
- Assist in the preparation of cash programming systems
- Assist in the preparation of technical e.g del agua kit systems
- Assist in the preparations of standard vouchers and systems for response

4) To assist in the preparation of finance systems for response
- Maintain and verify finance forms and procedures for emergency response
- Assist in the development of finance requirements for various systems for programmatic operations during emergencies
- Update a standard list of estimated prices for HR, procurement, transport and warehousing

5) To assist in the maintenance of communication and IT systems for deployment in emergencies
- Assist in the maintenance of communication devises with IT Officer
- Facilitate the issuance of communication devices to be used by the humanitarian team during emergencies
- Assist in the maintenance of internal and external e-networks

B. Logistics

1) To assist in the maintenance of the Logistics outsourcing systems for medium and large scale emergencies
- Assist in the update on a quarterly basis the register of preferred suppliers
- Assist in the update on a quarterly basis the register of transporters
- Assist in the update on a quarterly basis the register of warehouses
- Assist in the update on a quarterly basis the register of other response systems

C. Security
- To assist in the development of information packs relative to OI contingency plan (assistance in the maintenance of welcome pack for emergencies, based on OI contingency plan)

D. Others
- Role in emergencies – to be defined and updated in internal contingency plan
- To assist in events organization and network management

Key Competencies

The following are essential
- Knowledge of Oxfam's systems in emergencies
- Knowledge of the Philippines DM context, relating to systems
- Ability to focus on details
- Relevant language skills
- Experience of medium and large scale emergencies
- Experience in managing large suppliers and transport companies
- Experience in managing IT systems
- Experience in systems management in medium and large scale emergencies
- Demonstrated commitment to treat men and women equally in all aspects
- Ability to work in a team with multi-cultural backgrounds
- Flexible, adaptable, with initiative, willing to travel
- Proficiency in using Microsoft word and excel

In addition, the following are highly desirable:
- Appropriate degree or qualification
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- Knowledge of disaster prone regions in the country

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Teacher's Village, Diliman, Quezon City 1101
FAX: 927-0499 email: etadeo@oxfam.org.uk

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3. Credit Reviewer
Evaluates and validates loan applications. Ideal candidate must be at least 35 years old and with relevant experience in credit review. Must be thorough and possess good credit skills.

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5. Audit Officer
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6. Account Officer for Taiwan Desk and Specialized Lending
Develop and manage clients' loan portfolio. With at least 3 years experience in account management; self-motivated and possess balanced marketing and credit skills. Proficiency in Mandarin is required for Taiwan Desk assignment.

7. Consumer Loans Manager
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8. Database Administrator
Ideal candidate must not be more than 40 years old and with at least 2 years experience in database administration **(Oracle & UNIX)**, must be analytical, hardworking and result-oriented.

9. Analyst / Programmer
Design, develop, test and implement assigned information systems, in coordination with end users as well as other IT personnel. Ideal candidate must not be more than 35 years old, with at least 1 year experience in programming using at least one of the following : COBOL, VB, VB6, ASP.net or net tools. Should have a working knowledge in SQL and Oracle. Background in FNS is an advantage.

10. Collection Assistant
Handle collection and monitoring of delinquent retail loan accounts. Ideal candidate must not be more than 30 years old and with at least 1 year experience in collection. Must be flexible, result- oriented and can work well under pressure.

11. Pre-screeners
Review loan applications and accompanying documents. Ideal candidate must not be more than 30 years old, thorough, flexible, result-oriented, and can work well in a fast-paced environment.

12. Payroll Assistant
Ensure the timely processing and release of employee compensation and benefits. Ideal candidate is preferably male, no more than 30 years old and an Accountancy graduate, and able to relate well with people from all levels. Experience in payroll and benefits processing is an advantage.

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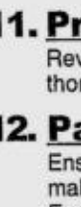

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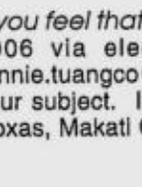

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'Help! I'm 68 with no work and no money!'

By Josie O. Santamaria

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Josie O. Santamaria

I AM HESITANT TO WRITE you for help because I'm no longer working and have no career to speak of. I am 68 years old, retired for the past eight years, and a widow with three adult children, all of whom are married and have families of their own. I had worked for many years in a government corporation as administrative assistant and later as secretary to a department head. My problem is that I'm in financial distress and have no more source of income. I don't have any savings at all. I have used up my and my late husband's entire retirement fund because, prior to his death, he had required long period of hospitalization, expensive medical treatment and medical specialist's services.

I don't know how long I still have to live and am so anxious from day to day, knowing that I'm just waiting for any of my children to take pity on me, remember me, and give me money for my monthly living expenses. Sad to say, not one of them, including my youngest son who is earning much, takes care of me on a monthly regular basis which I can depend on.

I had to sell our house three years ago so that my youngest son could take a two-year full-time master's course which helped him become successful in his career. The rest of the proceeds I divided among my children (including my youngest son), with me taking only one-fourth of the proceeds from the sale of the property. This was a big mistake I made but it is too late now to cry over spilt milk. Now I live with a daughter, and her family, sharing a room with a teenaged granddaughter who wants the room only for herself.

Do I have a chance to earn so I don't have to be dependent and feel so helpless? How can I go about it? Please help me.

Mrs. Unhappy Retiree

You feel despondent about your financial dependence on your adult children who enjoyed equal share of the sale of your and your husband's property, rather than just one-fourth of your late husband's share. You feel hurt that they are not sensitive to your needs and don't show their compassion for you.

I suggest that you don't dwell on your feelings of self-pity and helplessness because doing so will only make you feel miserable. You can and you do have the capability to do something to earn money for your needs so that you don't have to depend on your children.

Can-do attitude

The first thing you have to do is to have a can-do attitude, that you can have a source of income, and that God will bless your efforts to earn a living. Repeat this positive self-affirmation to yourself everyday: "I can have a source of income and God will bless my efforts to earn a living." Remove from your mind thoughts of being old, of not being able to do things, of being weak, of people not being able to appreciate what you can do for them. Instead read and know about elderly people who continued to be productive in their 70s, 80s, etc. Fill your mind with positive thoughts of "I can," "I will," "they will like what I have to offer," etc. When you are about to fall into your self-pity syndrome, repeat these positive affirmations.

The second thing to do is to list down all the job positions you have had and your membership in civic, religious and other volunteer organizations. For every position, list down what you did (the tasks required of the job) and then list down all the skills you used to accomplish these tasks.

As secretary, for example, what were your major tasks and what skills did you use? Examples of these are: composing routine letters, writing minutes of meeting, printing and preparing Powerpoint presentation, photocopying, managing incoming and outgoing calls, arranging meetings, etc.

List down also all your hobbies such as baking pastries and pies, growing ornamental plants, cross stitching, decorating interiors of homes, sewing, etc.

Which skills do you enjoy using most? The skills related to your interests can be the sources of livelihood for you. Advertise your skills and/or your products thru your community and parish newsletters. Ask permission to post your ad in bulletin boards in your barangay, village or parish halls. There may be people in your community who can hire you to do some temporary printing jobs, prepare Powerpoint presentations, etc.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

You did not mention if you have a computer or have access to one. Offering your computer service acquires you to have your own computer. If you have no money to buy one, ask your children, especially your youngest son, to give you a computer so you can earn and be self-sufficient. Prepare a script that you can deliver to your son and his wife. Example: "I want to have a good computer so I can offer my skills to people who may need printing services and pay for them. In this way, I can be self-sufficient and not have to wait for any of my children, like you, to provide for my needs. I have already told you that I have no savings. Since I had spent on you more than I did on your sisters, I hope you will give me this computer." What do you think of this message? How do you feel about it? You are honest in expressing to them what you need rather than wish they can second-guess you. Your other option is to get a loan from them or from other. The importance of writing a script is that this will give you time to choose the words you will use, and deliver your message with self-confidence.

Sources of income

Additional sources of income can come from cooked or baked products you can make, or crafts you can produce. If you are very good in baking some pastries like chocolate chip cookies, *ensaymada*, pastilles, tarts, etc. or pies, like apple or peach cream pies, etc. or preparing a variety of pasta, you can advertise your products, price them and have your prospective customers call you for orders. The usual practice for food order is an advance of 50 percent upon ordering, with the 50-percent balance to be paid upon delivery.

Spend time developing your network of customers by being members of community or parish organizations. Tell your fellow members about your products and your services. Give them free bite-sized samples of your baked products or pastas you churn out, and ask them to order from you and to refer your products to their friends and neighbors. Call them up and tell them about your products. The important thing is for you to sell products that you can do well and which have fast turnover.

Writing

Can you write? What is your writing style? How is your grammar? You can write for magazines and newspapers. You can offer to take down and write minutes of meetings of your village association. Be aware of all your skills and abilities. Listing these down will make you feel good about yourself and grateful to God for giving you these gifts.

Just as important, hone or enhance your skills so that you can improve your services and your products by enrolling in short courses. I suggest you look up short courses offered by Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC) at telephone numbers 637-4018 or 637-4108. Also, take a course on setting up and managing a micro-mini business from your home.

By doing all these, you will have no time for self-pity, to feel anxious and miserable. Your self-confidence and inner peace will add many more years to your life, and more life to these years.

(Santamaria is a psychologist, career counselor, coach, trainer and management consultant. She is president of Career Systems, Inc., a human resource management consulting and training company. Send questions and feedback at carsys@careersystems.com.ph.)

Food business

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

THERE SEEMS TO BE A HUGE AMOUNT OF WORK BEHIND THE mammoth food industry business all over the world. The enormous task of providing people with the "true" or "complete" food—one which gives total satisfaction—seems to be a pursuit of an impossible dream, making the food business grow even more. What could this business phenomenon teach us? What could it reveal about our human condition?

The seemingly bottomless hunger and thirst of people for food, and the almost never-ending chain of restaurants and eating places being set up, would convince us that everyone, whether a food consumer or food provider, craves for the "true" food. Our search for the most delicious food or for the most "healthy" ones, springs from our innate need of true happiness and our spiritual desire for a healthy, long and lasting life. Such "total and complete food" could not be found anywhere on this planet; but Someone could provide it for anyone who is willing to "pay" for it through a humble faith and acceptance of the Lord Jesus who offers His flesh and blood as "true food" and "true drink."

The "food business" of Jesus—the Eucharist—does not compete with the commercial food industry; instead, if accepted and made an essential part of life, it does complete the efforts of those in the business or those who simply enjoy food, with greater meaning and satisfaction. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Open mouth, open mind

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

AFTER A HARD DAY'S WORK, MEN, ESPECIALLY, GO FOR SOME beer and *pulutan*. And in this country of ours where in some localities pork or beef could be relatively as costly as gold, *pulutan* could be anything from animals' innards to dog meat. And speaking of dog meat raises this question: Why is it that some people, even without meaning to, anger dogs? All they need to do is be around dogs and the latter growl, as though ready to attack. Those in the know claim that dogs sniff out dog-meat eaters—they are thus provoked by the canine odor the latter exude.

Whether that's true or not, we can't deny that what we eat and drink affects our bodily constitution. Meat lovers swear they need meat for physical strength, and that salads make them feel like wilting *pechay*. Vegetarians claim their breath isn't sour and they don't pass bad air as carnivores do. Workaholics avoid "heavies" (read *kare-kareng buntot* and *binagoongang baboy*, yum!) when they have to work all night as these make them sluggish.

But surely one's mind also has something to do with the effects of food on our bodies? People have been known to want to puke once they learn they've eaten dog meat, but otherwise would feast on *asusena* with gusto. And how come "aphrodisiacs" would work for some and not for others? Contradictory beliefs notwithstanding, the food and drink that Jesus offers bears a promise waiting to come true for everyone: all one needs to do is accept it not only with an open mouth, but with an open mind and heart as well. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

Gospel: Jn 6: 51-58

For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Of working mothers and mothers-in-law

By Loree Cruz-Mante
Contributor

A WORKING MOTHER EXISTS in a multidimensional world governed by a complex web of interrelationships. There are the husband and children, parents, relatives, bosses, subordinates, peers, clients, friends, churchmates, sports partners, parent-teacher associates, classmates, and all other tentacle groups of every imaginable interest area.

And then—standing in a category all its own—there is the mother-in-law. Why this distinct classification? Because to many a working mother, it is the mother-in-law who represents the sometimes grim reality of what expectations are all about. While a mother can also level harsh demands on her married daughter, she shares with her daughter a genetic bond which a mother-in-law can never share. She is an outsider to this genetic link and yet, the fact that she is mother to the working mom's husband entitles her to have expectations uniquely her own.

Fine salt or rock salt?

A mother-in-law's expectations seem to be formed along what I call the "fine salt or coarse salt" syndrome. A daughter who marries and becomes a working mother often imbibes her mother's preferences and practices which she remembers from childhood images of her in the kitchen. If Mommy used rock salt for seasoning her dishes, then rock salt it is for the married daughter.

What, then, if the mother-in-law is of the fine salt league? She judges her daughter-in-law from her "fine salt is better" perspective and expects her to have similar preferences. After all, the mother-in-law believes that she is only looking out for her son who must now be at the mercy of his wife's cooking. She feels duty-bound to ensure the continued well-being of her son and her grandchildren.

The preference for fine salt should be all right, because even the mother-in-law has a mother who taught her to prefer fine salt in the first place. Very often, however, she imposes it as the only one there is. The working mother must use only fine salt; rock salt is unacceptable.

Put simply, the mother-in-law often expects her daughter-in-law to do things the way she does them, forgetting that her daughter-in-law was raised by a different mother to whom she remains loyal.

Expectations

And so it is that the working mother has one more set of expectations to deal with. However, unlike the other countless expectations of family and friends, the mother-in-law's expectations have a unique character: they are all meant to continue the quality of motherly care with which she raised her son.

Although mother-in-law expectations are true for both working and nonworking mothers, the situation becomes particularly difficult for the mom who works. It doesn't mean much that the working mom is vice president of her organization, or that she has published a book, or that she is involved in social causes. To the mother-in-law, she still remains a wife and mother, these roles on top of any other.

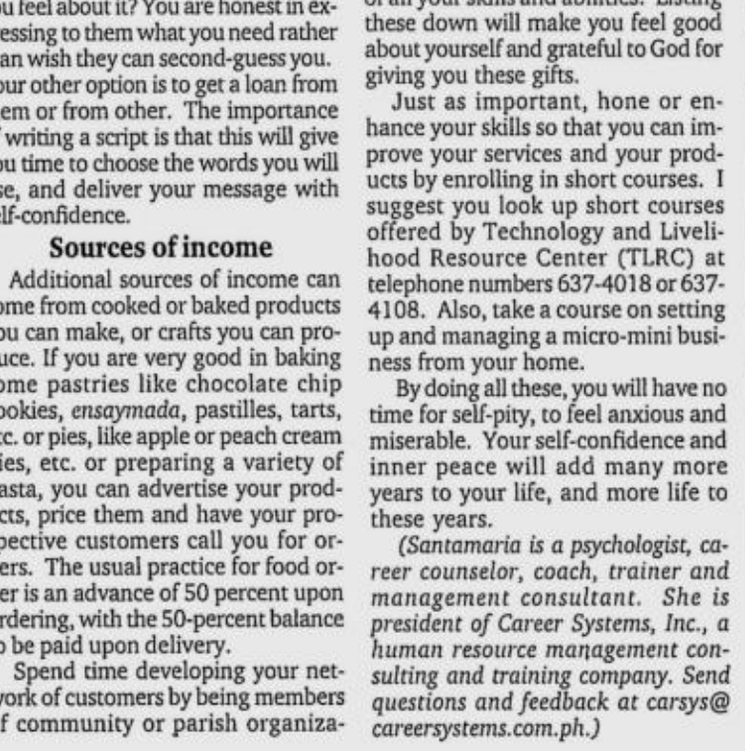

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Pulled every which way

Children scream for help with their schoolwork. A husband expects hot meals and fresh salads. Friends expect telephone talk time. The church needs help with its Payatas outreach. The *yaya* expects a break from baby-sitting.

The working mother has to meet all these demands simultaneously. But to the mother-in-law who watches from the sidelines, the career is not visible and she may often forget that it even exists. The center stage that she watches is the homefront and that is where she may have much to say. Whether she verbalizes her observations or not is not the issue. Sometimes silence wields a more hurtful message. And so the litany of the working mother's supposed sins continues: The clutter around the house is hopeless. Her son's shirt isn't stark white. The vegetables are overcooked. Her grandson is losing weight. The *kasambahay* is always goofing off. The orchids need watering.

How does a mother-in-law cook up these expectations? On which standard does she base her case on? Quite simply, she uses the fine or rock salt syndrome. Her own mother was an impeccable homemaker, and so all women must be. Her own mother took meticulous care to please her family, and so all women must. Her own mother used fine salt, and so must all women. She means ALL women, especially her son's wife, working.

There are other factors that appear to be merely tangential but are actually potent shapers of expectations. Some are cultural and regional in nature and have to do with marital values, child-rearing practices, housekeeping behaviors, and the role of women. Some smack of generation gap, with its expressions probably more pronounced.

Then there is the inability of both parties to transition from their old roles to new ones. For the mother-in-law, it is the jealous insistence on her superior brand of loving and caring for her son and his children. For the working mother, it is the acceptance of another woman who wields such power over her marriage, and this woman is not even her mother.

Mother-in-law yardstick

If the mother-in-law has never worked, the situation can be doubly difficult. She will most likely be unable to appreciate the intricate nuances of keeping a job and running a household at the same time. To her, the unwashed dishes left on the sink and the empty freezer are evidence of motherly neglect.

If the mother-in-law has had a career herself, it may be easier for her to sympathize with the working mother's predicament. But she may just as likely use herself as yardstick ("I worked, kept house, took care of my husband, and raised 10 kids!). Or, she may transfer failed expectations of herself and demand of her daughter-in-law the things that she herself failed to do.

Accepting the preferences

The more successful working mother and mother-in-law relationships are those where both parties are able to accept that fine and rock salt preferences are not mutually exclusive. They can co-exist and are both perfectly valid. In the end, they both spice up the bland and tasteless, and season the food to produce a masterpiece of a dish crafted by loving hands. No working mother is forced to be a younger version of her mom or mother-in-law as a wife and mother, roles played at a time and space when the workplace was a man's almost exclusive domain. Each working mother must craft her own life journey, and it is this unique roadmap that she must tread. Just like her mom and her mother-in-law before her.

(Loree Cruz-Mante is a freelance HR and OD practitioner, published writer, editor, trainor, and counselor. She recently launched Biyaheng FX: Round Trips to Pinoy Life, published by Anvil Publishing and available at Powerbooks and National Bookstore. E-mail her at lcmante@yahoo.com.)

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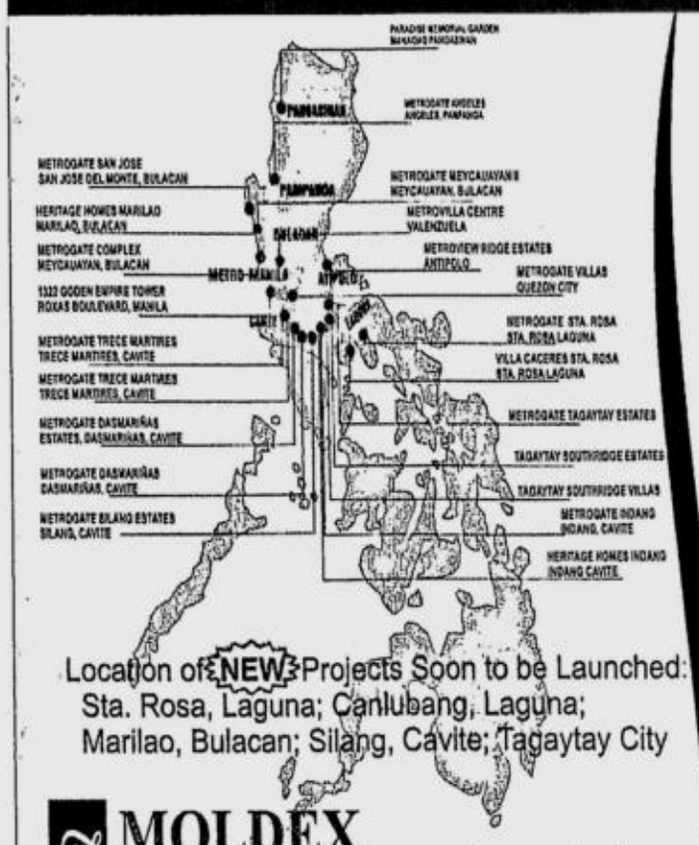

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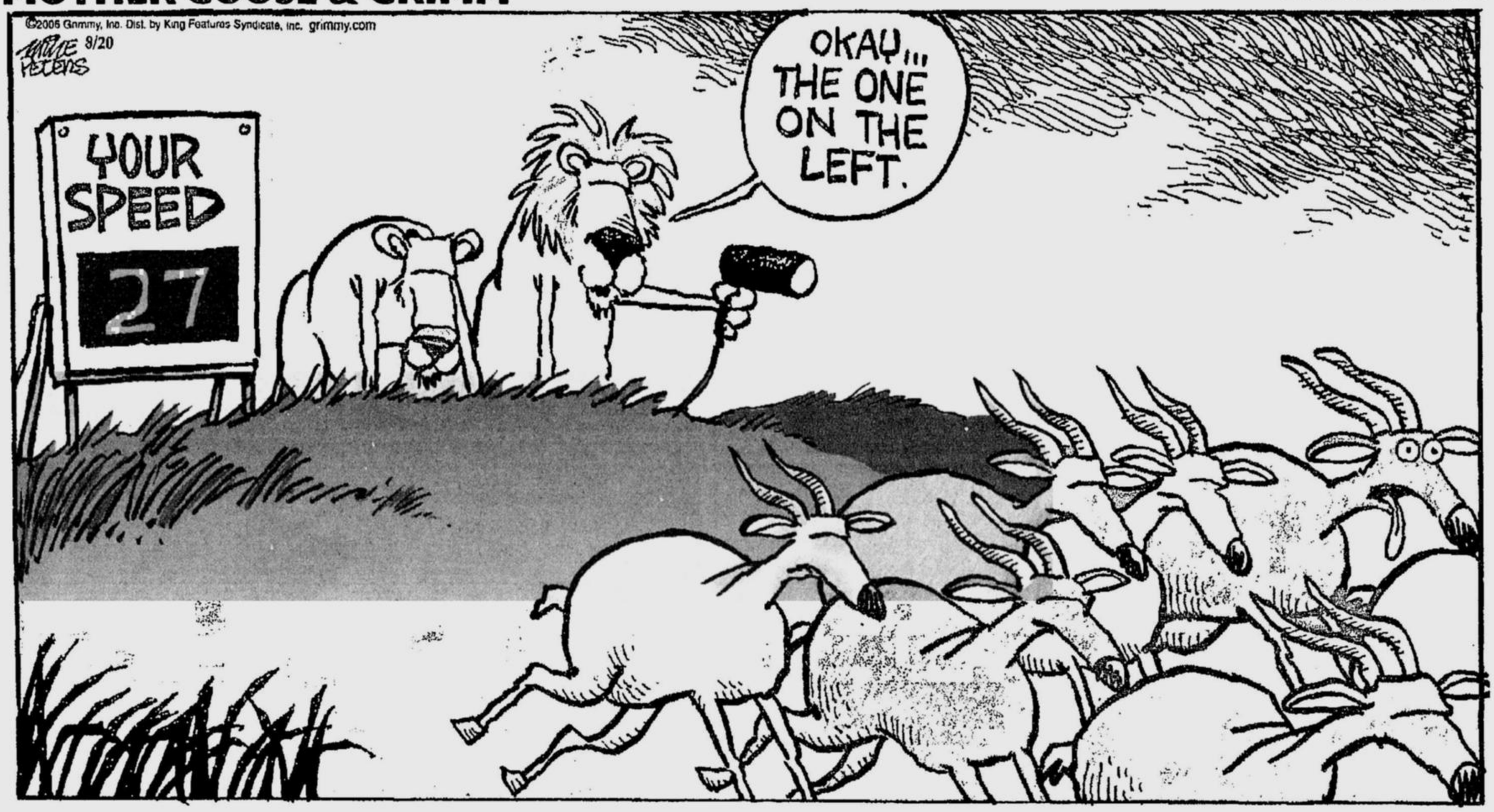

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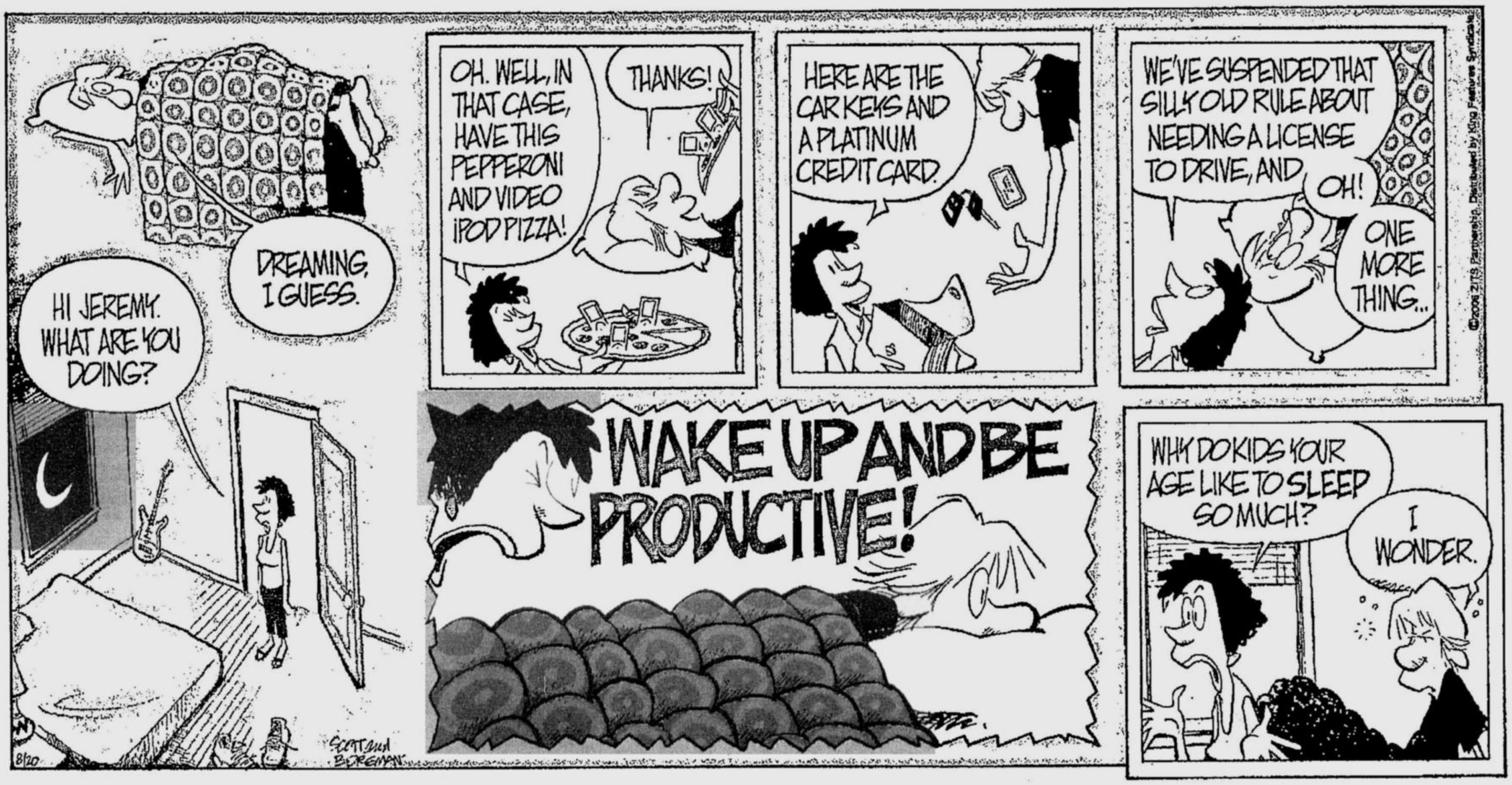

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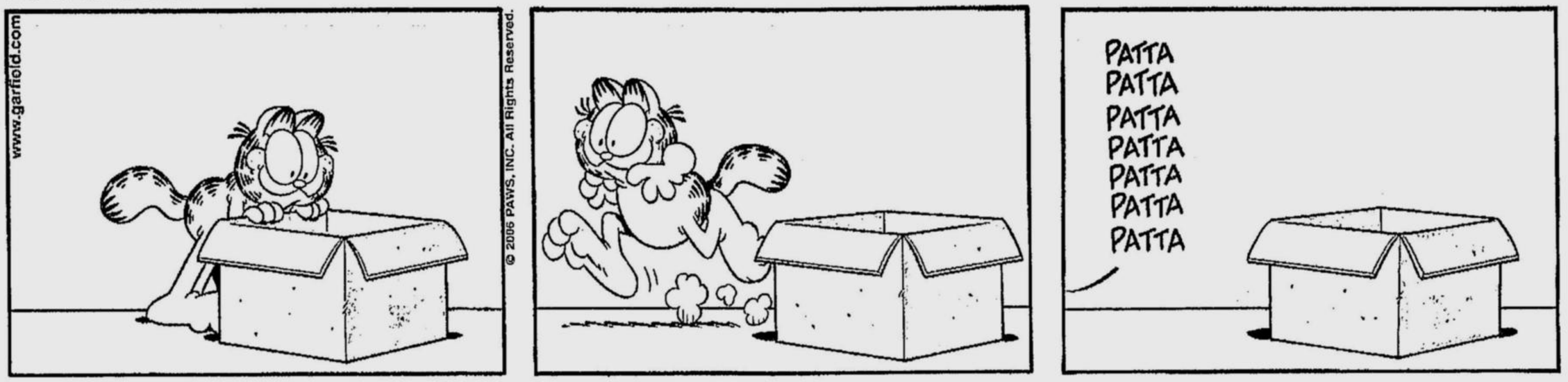

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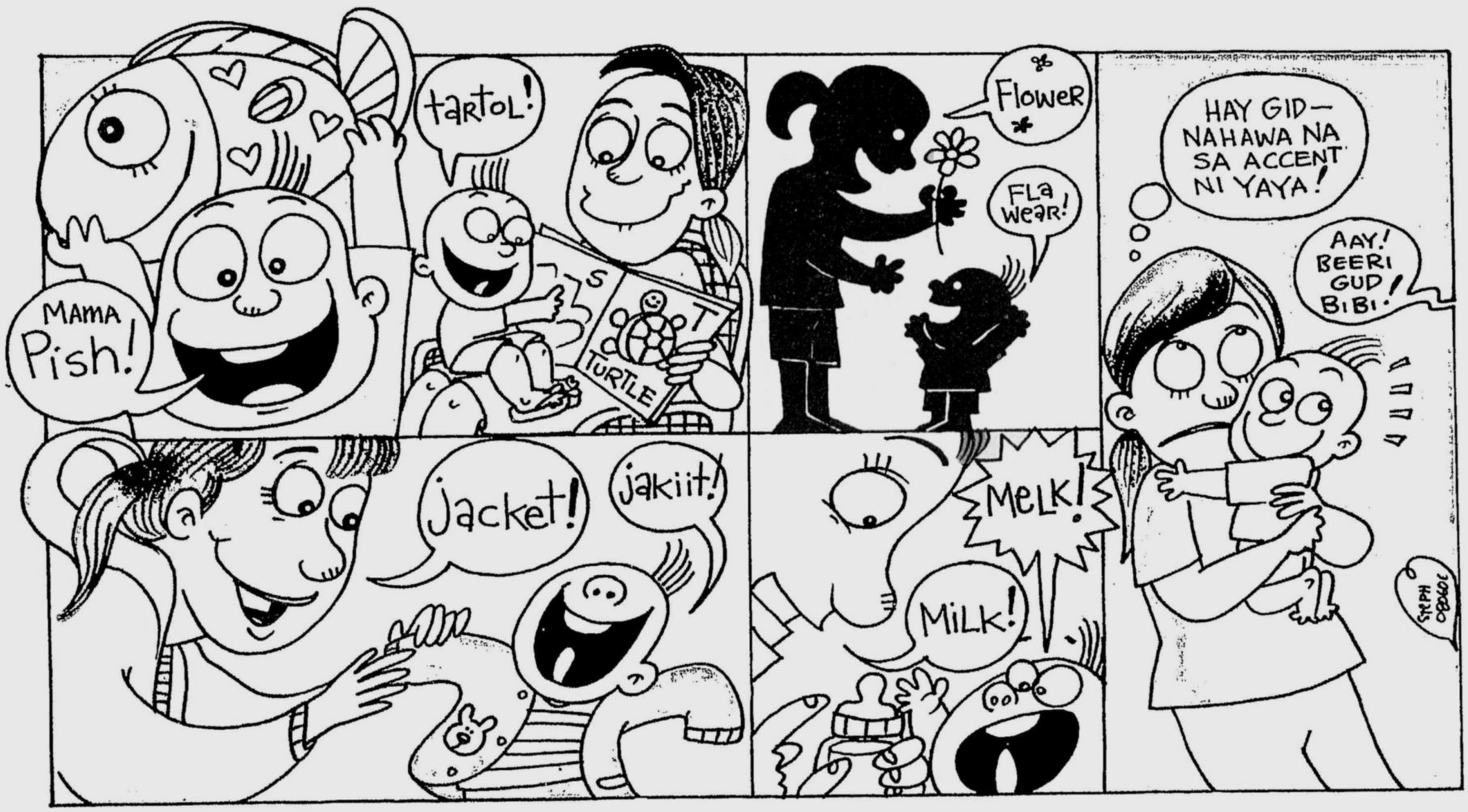

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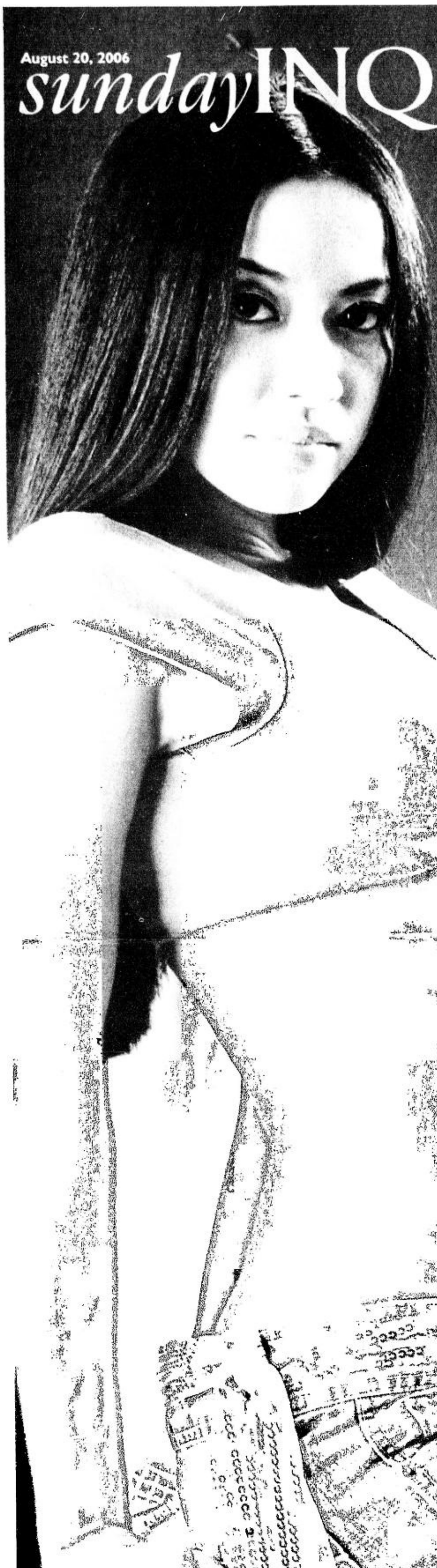

A tantalizing taste of Mocha

'Wholesomely sexy' R&B songstress is primed for a climb up the charts and a chance to prove she's more than just eye candy

by Eric S. Caruncho
photographs by Ryan Lim

You

"Eye candy," the 24-year-old singer admits, is an essential ingredient in the Mocha experience.

To page 2

Geriatric golfer, *p.3*
Dedicated dancer, *p.4*
Musical miss, *p.6*

Sassy: "When I'm onstage, I can be anybody."

Mocha ...from page 1

Nothing new in that:The visual component has always been a central part of the pop experience, even before Elvis. Artists have always known that how they look is just as important as how they sound. (Early members of the pre-success Beatles and Rolling Stones were kicked out of the band because they looked wrong.) But the advent of MTV and the internet as primary marketing tools for pop music has taken the "eye candy" aspect of pop to a whole new level. Where would Madonna be without her videos? The Black-Eyed Peas without Fergie?

Total package

"I want to be the total package," she says. "I'm not just a singer, I'm also a performer, a dancer, a model, a host.

"We're also the only band with the concept of a singer with two dancers," she adds.

Bambie and Hershey, Mocha's very own Fly Girls, are professional dancers and also hot, but not so as to detract attention from the main event.

On stage, in minuscule outfits calculated to show off their toned torsos, the girls present a triple threat as they go through their choreographed booty-shaking routines, backed by a churning funk mix of pop R& B standards by the likes of Beyoncé and Britney and the occasional out-of-left-field cover (Depeche Mode's "I Just Can't Get Enough" is one of the band's encore pieces).

Although acoustic balladeers like M.Y.M.P. and lounge singers like Nina still rule the live music roost, high-energy stage shows like Mocha's are attracting their share of devotees. In fact, the band currently has a full gig schedule, performing Tuesdays at Mugen in Metrowalk, Wednesdays at Club Bossa in Clark, Angeles, Thursdays and Fridays at the Hard Rock Café and Saturdays at Ratsky's Malate.

Mocha describes their live show as "sassy, wholesomely sexy, if there's such a term."

And it's not all guys in the audience—although they do tend to be the most vocal in their appreciation.

"The nice thing is, we also have a female audience and they also enjoy the show," she says. "Even kids appreciate the show, it's like Britney Spears, with dancing. So we cater to a large age range. *May mga* oldies *din*.

Unpredictable

"It's a fun experience," she continues. "I want my show to be unpredictable, full of surprises because I'm spontaneous. I want to be in the moment with my audience, so it's not the same show everyday. *Iba-iba*. We have gimmicks. I interact with the audience. We have this thing called 'dance showdown' where we invite the audience to have a dance-off. I'm all about interacting with the audience, I want them to be involved in the show."

Above all, Mocha relishes the performer's freedom to reinvent herself on stage.

"I'm actually an introvert," she continues. "Offstage, I'm very quiet, painfully shy. But when I'm on stage, I'm a different person. I want to live a quiet life, but since this is what I enjoy, when I go on stage I can be anybody."

But who is the real Mocha? Her website (www.mocha.com.ph) is tantalizingly short on details. One senses that this is not so much to create a mystique as it is to guard the private person behind the public performer. Only after much prying will Mocha reveal facets of her private life, and then only reluctantly.

Her real name, for instance, is Margaux Uson, although Mocha is her real nickname.

"My mom gave that name to me when I was born," she says. "The story behind that is, when I was born in the hospital, my mom's friends gave cakes, rolls and pastries and they were all flavored mocha. And I really had a dark complexion when I was a baby, so Mocha was my nickname from the beginning. Everyone knows me as Mocha."

Musical aptitude

Mocha was born in Manila on May 17, 1982.

"Please don't stress the age so much," she says. "I'm planning to be 24 for about three years."

She grew up largely in Pangasinan, her father's home province, and it was in high school in Dagupan City that she first showed an aptitude for music.

"It was mostly singing competitions, amateur contests," she recalls. "I got more interested in music when I went to Manila for college."

Her family, however, had other plans for their eldest daughter.

"My mom's a pediatrician and she wanted me to follow in her footsteps," she says.

Mocha enrolled in Medical Technology at the University of Santo Tomas. It was here that she formed her first band, a pop-rock outfit, and started seriously considering a music career.

After finishing her Med Tech course, Mocha began her first year of medical school, but unbeknownst to her parents, she had also started performing in bars with her first professional band, Opus. After juggling med school and music for one year, it was clear that she had to make a choice, and it was also clear that the choice wasn't going to be medicine.

"I actually dropped out of medicine first before I told my parents that I hadn't been going to school for one week already," she recalls. "I was only three weeks into my second year of med proper, and I could have applied for a leave of absence, but I didn't want to come back. Maybe if I weren't a singer now, I could still become a doctor but I really wanted to do this singing thing.

Difficult decision

"It was a very difficult decision because I come from a family of doctors," she says. "My mom was very frustrated because I chose singing over medicine. *Pasaway*. (Disobedient). *Nagalit sobra*"(She got really mad).

Opus eventually disbanded because of musical differences. Mocha wanted to be in a band full time, but the other members wanted to be session musicians.

"We didn't want to be a backup band for other singers," she recalls.

Together with drummer Byron Cristobal, now her manager and the band's musical director, Mocha formed another group with her as the front woman. The group eventually landed a regular slot at the Hard Rock Café. Mocha also landed a part on the soap opera "Twin Hearts," where she played one of the villains for a whole season. The network wanted to sign her to a contract, but Mocha was determined to succeed as a singer, so she passed.

In the meantime, she also started doing a bit of commercial modeling while waiting for her big break.

The break finally came when she was asked to sing the theme song for "My Little Bride," a Korean romantic comedy that was dubbed in Filipino for theatrical release last year. The Korean theme song was also translated into Filipino, and Mocha's version was released as "My Love."

Serious attention

The success of "My Love," at least among the Koreanovela audience, led to the release of her current EP, "A Taste of Mocha" by XAX Records, an outfit specializing in Koreanovela-related music although truth be told, Mocha's R & B stylings couldn't be further from the average saccharine ballad typically used in Korean soaps.

On the "eye candy" front, Mocha was also getting serious attention from an altogether different source: men's magazines.

"I was flattered when I was invited to do a pictorial for FHM," she confesses. "I was excited. I knew it was going to be hot, but tasteful."

Tasty is more like it, but the FHM spread proved to be a healthy career boost, winning her a new, testosterone-driven audience.

Meanwhile, the management of Hard Rock Café suggested that she add a couple of female dancers to spice up her show. The band started to hold auditions and eventually settled on Hershey, a former cheerleader and Bambie, a finalist in the "Stardance" reality show. The addition of two seasoned dancers gave the show a whole new dimension.

"It was a risk for us, but it's also more fun, more enjoyable compared to my just singing," says Mocha. "Now that we have dancers, I've learned to dance as well, so *mas masaya ang* Mocha experience. It's hard for me because I'm basically a singer. We have rehearsals and I really work on it. We try to fit it into our schedule and I can say I've improved. I can keep up with Bambie and Hershey."

New and improved

For their part, the two dancers have also begun to sing backup.

The new, improved Mocha got another break when they landed the coveted opening slot for the Rex Smith concert at the Araneta Coliseum. Despite their music being the polar opposite of the early '80s hearthrob's, it was their biggest live gig so far.

Things are starting to look up for Mocha. The band is currently working on their second music video which they say will be more MTV-friendly than their first, "My Love," which was geared more to the Koreanovela audience.

Her mother, she says, has also gotten over her disappointment.

"Before, she was very negative about it," she says. "She would say, '*Pag tumanda ka, pag pumangit ka, wala na ang* career *mo*.' (When you get older, when you get uglier, your career will be gone.) But now she's very proud of me. She even bought a hundred copies of my CD. She's now my stage mother. She's very proud of me now because she knows that I'm very focused on this career that I chose. She actually comes to watch my shows."

Her father, unfortunately, died three years ago under tragic circumstances, but Mocha takes comfort in knowing that he had also accepted her choice.

Grueling schedule

"At first it was very hard to convince him, but he was actually the singer in the family. *Sinisi ko pa nga siya*, I told him that I got this talent from him. The whole world stopped for me when he died, but life must go on, and I'm happy that before he passed away, he had already accepted my decision to follow this career."

Even for a non-dancing outfit, Mocha's gig schedule would be grueling enough. Add to that the physical stress of rehearsals and it's a punishing work load for anyone in less than tip-top shape. Mocha keeps in fighting form with regular workouts at Gold's Gym, and it shows, specially in her chiseled midsection, which she always displays to advantage on stage.

"This life is physically demanding," she admits. "I have to sleep eight hours a day, take vitamins and supplements, and I go to the gym."

This doesn't leave much time for much else.

"Personal life? *Wala*," she says. "I'm off-line, and there's no queue. I'm single by choice, but I'm content. I'm happy being a single woman with my career."

Her career choice is beginning to pay off, and the band is beginning to get invitations to perform abroad.

"Who wouldn't want to go international?" she says. "That's the dream of every artist, but I'll take it one day at a time, one step at a time."

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Dinabaw

So how is it down south? I mean,
you know, what's the situation down there?

Well, the sun still rises east and swears by
its old lanes in high heavens.
Rains tumult the nights, earth drinks up,
the leaves shiny and clinging to the last drops
on nippy dawns. Looking pitiful like
refugees or tourists in the distance,
proud yet about to put everything down
and run off, the trees with boughs
sagging with the weight of rambutans,
pomelos, mangoes. In Tugbok, bulbs of durians
sleep aloft their tall, stately trees, biding time
for their welcome impish explosions.
Chandeliers of mangosteens and
pyramids of santol crowd out
the spread of avocados and pineapples
in the fruit stands and sidewalks.

Ants hold Kadayawans all year round.
Here is mountain, here is sea.
Here the kind hand to strangers unworried
by reward. Here the laughter and coy smiles
of girls without guile, summery crisp and
fresh as the fabled waters of Dumoy.
The sky still lords over the sky, and there
is no place without the gift of food and plenty.
People still die each day, some
notoriously, their swift killers at large,
the grumblings thundered out
by a dreaminess complicit with the stark
perplexing air of garrisoned white sand beaches.
In the slow hours of understanding and accomplishment,
birds sing, restoring cheer and fermentations.
Here is some vague sense of faith leaped for and kept-
of love working out its knot of light among stars.
As though in the bountied house of the father, we
wake and heed the one word of the mother-take!

Ricardo M. de Ungria

All in the Game

by Al S. Mendoza

At 92, he plays golf 3 days a week—without riding a golf cart—at RP's oldest course

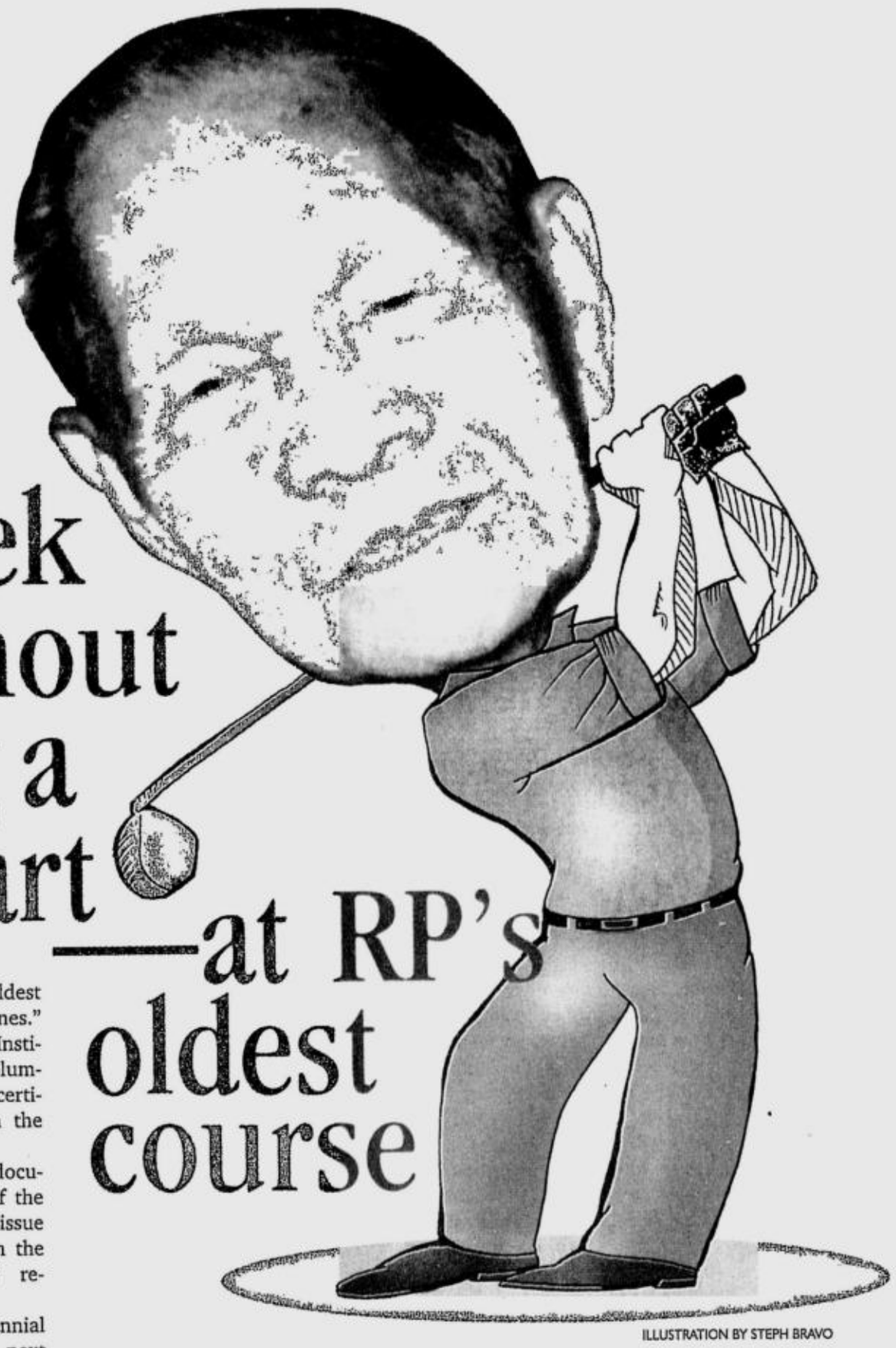

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

He may be older even than his favorite historic golf club in Iloilo, but Anatalio Viray's healthy habits and positive attitude have kept him happily swinging away

HOW MANY times has it been said that golf is a game for all ages?

Whether you are five or a hundred and five, golf is for you.

My job as a sportswriter gives me a ringside seat to sporting events big and small, here and abroad. All these years, I've seen 5-year-olds, 10-year-olds and 12-year-olds whack that dimpled ball without let-up, hoping to one day become the new Tiger Woods.

I've seen Tiger Woods win his first crown live. The thrill hasn't died down; it never will.

When Tiger Woods was 9, I saw him defeat our very own Martin Valdes to capture the 10-and-under crown in the World Junior Golf Championship in San Diego, California. Martin was inconsolably crying after the loss—for good reason. He was leading Tiger by a stroke with a hole to go. But he bogeyed the final cup, and Tiger made birdie for the emphatic win.

In the picture-taking of the top three finishers that year—was it 1985?—Gabby Valdes (Martin's father) and I had to unleash our persuasive powers to convince the runner-up Martin to pose for photographers. In one historic snapshot, Martin was bawling uncontrollably, with tears streaming down his cheeks.

Now 30, Tiger Woods has 11 majors won and 50 wins pocketed worldwide. It is predicted that, barring any unforeseen event, Tiger will easily erase the all-time record of 18 majors won by Jack Nicklaus.

But enough of Tiger talk.

Let's go now to Anatalio Tabara Viray.

Endless love

No, Viray has never won a major golf crown. No national amateur title, no Philippine Open crown, no nothing. In short, hardly can we compare Viray with Woods. If there's any commonality at all between them, it is that both pour endless love into golf, the way a mother would on her child.

Unlike Woods, Viray has only won a number of not-so-prestigious events, like trophies in basically fun and social tournaments like the PAL Interclub.

But inconsequential as Viray's victories may seem, Viray treats them all as "great triumphs of the spirit."

Says Viray, "Be the best of whatever you are."

Incidentally, the PAL Interclub will hold its 60th edition next year and, surely, Viray—God permitting—will be in that tournament again.

I say, "God permitting," because by the time the PAL Interclub comes around, Viray will have turned 93.

And you can bet he'll be around anew and retain his record as the oldest ever PAL Interclub participant the last 10, 15 years or so. I insist you place your bets because, at 92, Viray plays golf three days a week—religiously, mind you. And he does it without the benefit of a golf cart.

How does he do it?

"By walking," he says, chuckling.

And this, you've got to believe, too. If a friend of his invites him to play outside of his golfing days, Viray will accede—again, minus a golf cart. He says he can play golf seven days a week without a golf cart.

"I just feel I need to walk," he says. "Oh, nothing beats the wonders of walking."

He's been walking practically all his life—from the olden days to his office days up to when he finally decided to stay put in Iloilo City upon retirement.

"In walking, there is life," he says. "I also ride jeepneys. But if you keep on riding, it encourages you to be lazy. If you develop that, you are developing a bad habit. Walking is one of the best habits to keep you alive."

Old course

The course he plays in three days a week since he retired as treasurer/comptroller of the Development Bank of the Philippines in 1978 is the Iloilo Golf & Country Club. Located in Sta. Barbara, the course is a good 40 minutes by jeepney from Iloilo City.

The course's old name was Sta. Barbara Golf Course, which was built by Scottish engineers tasked to design the Panay railroad system at the turn of the century in partnership with the Philippine Commission's American colonizers.

At that time, the sugar industry was booming in that part of the Visayan island that the construction of a railroad had become imperative to transport produce primarily between Iloilo and Capiz.

This year, the Sta. Barbara Golf Course, renamed the Iloilo Golf & Country Club recently, has been attested through board resolutions by both the National Golf Association of the Philippines and the Federation of Golf Clubs in the Philippines as "the oldest existing golf course in the Philippines." Likewise, the National Historical Institute, through its head, INQUIRER columnist Ambeth Ocampo, has duly certified the course as "the first in the Philippines."

"With these three historic documents," says Dr. Noel Binayas of the Iloilo Golf & Country Club, "the issue of which course was the first in the country has been effectively resolved."

Binayas, as chair of the Centennial Year of Golf in the Philippines next year, has chosen Viray as "one of the supreme highlights" in the much-awaited celebration—with President Macapagal-Arroyo invited as the chief guest of honor.

Fitting honor

The honor is but fitting for Viray, as he was born six years after the course's inauguration. On December 1 this year, Viray will turn 93.

Born in Alibagon, Makato, Aklan, Viray, who is fondly called "Talyo" and later "Natalie" (but I call him Anatoly, and he likes it), was a self-supporting student, taking up a business course at the old Jose Rizal College at R. Hidalgo, Quiapo, before moving to UP-Manila to complete his accountancy course. He passed the CPA board exams in 1940.

So tedious and difficult were his "struggle years" that he worked odd jobs to survive. When he started making guest appearances in graduation exercises and other events such as Rotary conventions and the like, Viray said that he had a friend who often introduced him this way: "Ladies and gentlemen, our guest of honor today has seen what needs to be seen in all his battles and travails in life—the reason being that he used to be a boy in the ladies dorm for *colegialas* in a famous school for girls in Manila."

Viray, whose son Gamaliel is a famous baritone and character actor, remains witty, lucid, wears no eyeglasses and is not hard of hearing. He dreads relying on other people—not even his children. One child is a doctor, married, and owns her own clinic in Calamba, Laguna. Viray's two other children live in Iloilo City; one is a successful insurance executive, the other a real estate bigwig in the city.

But Viray doesn't live with any of them. He lives alone in an apartment in Iloilo City, relying solely on his retirement pension from DBP.

"It's better this way," says Viray, who cooks his own food, washes his own clothes and goes marketing himself. "With my golf, I bother no one."

Keeping healthy

A widower at 73 (his wife, Luz Reyes of Daet, Camarines Norte, died at 71), Viray remarried when he was 83. Last year, he split up with his second wife.

"It was a mistake marrying again," Viray says. "I couldn't look after her. She's now under the care of her sister in Manila."

Besides golf, he says he keeps himself fit and healthy by having "one egg, oat meal, bread with butter, a glass of milk, a cup of brewed coffee and one banana" for breakfast.

"I eat everything," Viray, who loves conversing in English, says. "Pork, beef, anything. No medicines for me. The only medicine I take is boiled periwinkle roots, whose extracts I drink to combat diabetes and blood sugar. Periwinkle is also found in Madagascar."

In a round I had with him recently in the company of his favorite golf mates in Iloilo—Frankie Locsin, Henry Co, Tony H. Lim and Binayas—I was invited to ride in a golf cart with Dr. Binayas. When I saw Viray walking on the fairway of No. 3 by his lonesome, I requested that we offer him a ride. At first he refused. When I insisted, he yielded.

"What a privilege," he said, chuckling as he sat beside me.

And Dr. Binayas replied, "It's our privilege, Mr. Viray."

Viray's ride was but short-lived. Two holes later, he resumed walking—his lean, no-belly frame swaying but firm in the breeze.

"I need to be alive," he said, upon alighting. "May I quote lines from a song: 'Never be dismayed/whatever is tied/God will take care of you.'"

With Viray a.k.a. Anatoly for a friend, only a fool gets to be dismayed.

And yes, with Anatoly for a golf mate, who needs Tiger Woods?

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On Stage

by Marge C. Enriquez
photographs by Jun de Leon

A Pinay ballerina is set to wow the world's best

More than her formidable talent and exquisite dancer's body, it is hard work and a can-do attitude that have brought Mary Saludares to this prestigious international competition, as contestant

ATCH 18-year-old Mary Beatrice Saludares in a ballet class or onstage, and you will know why she is the country's first bet to the Adeleine Genée International Dance Competition. The clarity of her line, the openness of her movements, the lucidity of her expression, the demureness with which she lets the music overwhelm her long limbs, her ingenue demeanor and most important, the can-do attitude—all promise hope for the country's future in dance.

To be held at the Academy of Performing Arts in Hong Kong from Aug. 25 to Sept. 3, this international tilt beckons to the cream of the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) syllabus' crop—those who passed with flying colors in the advanced level or the solo seal.

A homegrown talent, Mary started training at 6, when the Steps dance studio was just across her school, Colegio de Santa Rosa. Her first teacher, Sofia Zobel-Elizalde, Steps' head honcho and a former soloist of Ballet Philippines, inspired the student to love the art. Elizalde's positive attitude and words of encouragement laid the foundation for a healthy self-esteem that has helped Mary roll with the punches as she grew older.

Playing to a crowd

When Mary watched "Centerstage," a chick flick about young hopefuls in a top American dance company, she was inspired to pursue a dance career. At Steps, she also looked up to the older dancers, such as Lea Baduria, now in a dance company in Spain, and Jennifer Olayvar, a soloist at Ballet Manila, as her role models. Deep in her heart, Mary loved playing to the crowd, and dance gave her that opportunity.

Mary attributes her solid technique to Raul Sauz, one of the country's finest classical danseurs in his time, and now the only Filipino RAD examiner. Feared yet respected by students, Sauz has been known for wringing out the best performance from a dancer. Although he is a disciplinarian, he earns the trust of his students because of his concern for them.

Early in her training, Sauz would always tap Mary's knees and remind her to lengthen them to strengthen her legs. She recalls that when she was a child, he once asked her to do a series of jumps that involved changing the position of the feet. Although it was a simple exercise, she could not get it. He chastised her in front of her classmates and told her to master the jump by doing it 200 times at home. Mary cried from embarrassment, but instead of sulking, she took up the challenge and returned to class having done her homework. Her single-mindedness and resilience have enabled her to become an achiever.

In her years of studying the RAD syllabus, Mary has merited high marks, especially in her fluid adagios. Steps has recognized her talent and awarded her for her outstanding performances in classical ballet and modern dance in the past summer dance recitals.

Pushing to the limits

Mary is a familiar sight in classes and rehearsals, pushing herself to the limit. If she makes a mistake, she brushes off the initial failure, picks herself up and moves on. She doesn't take failure too seriously. "I want to be able to say that I've done it before. If you fail, at least you learn something from it, and so you grow. If you think you're a failure, then you become one."

In times of uncertainty, determination has been Mary's guiding light. "Once I've set my mind on something, everything will just follow. I program my mind to succeed," she says.

Mary admits that her biggest fear is to be sidelined by an injury. When she was training for the National Competition for Young Artists in 2004, she sprained an ankle and had to rest for a couple of weeks before the event. Sauz, her coach, asked if she still wanted to compete. Not accepting the temporary setback, she reasoned, "I don't want to have any regrets. I don't want to have to think about what if's or what could have been." Mary bravely performed and went on to win the Luva award. Choreographer Agnes Locsin's "Terminatrix" capitalized on her flexibility and delicious extensions.

Independent thinking

Although Mary can easily land a gig just by taking dance classes at Steps, she chose to major in dance at the University of the Philippines. College has been a period of discovery and a place where she learns to dance as part of the world. The academics train her to see the link between art and the sciences, and develop her independent thinking. The dance output and intellectual quest give her more depth as a performer.

Naturally, Mary has had to give up some things which other teeners tend to take for granted."My routine revolves around dance, academics and sleep," says the 18-year-old. "I have no time for malling. I prefer to study."

Mary has been preparing for the competition. She will perform a lyrical solo from the "Kingdom of the Shades" from "La Bayadere" which requires molten adagio, articulated footwork and an otherworldly quality in interpretation. A neoclassic solo, "Dances Concertantes" by Stravinsky, will showcase her long and graceful extremities.

Mary feels the pressure of being the first Philippine candidate who will compete against 60 other dancers from all over the world. She hopes that through this competition, she can be spotted by artistic directors of ballet companies overseas.

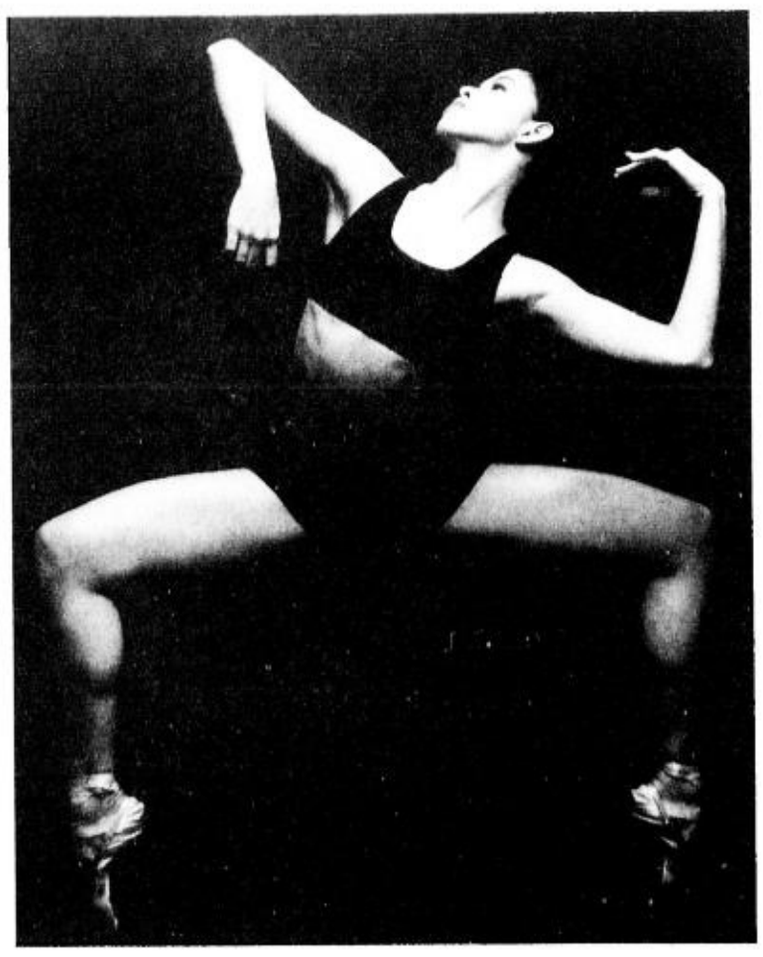
What keeps her feet on the ground despite the stress are her fearless attitude and sense of adventure for new experiences. "If the opportunity is offered to you, all you have to do is grab it. There's no harm in trying. You have everything to gain," she says.

Slender frame

At 5'5" and 108 lbs, Mary doesn't diet. She starts the day with a Filipino breakfast of rice, eggs, *tocino* or native sausages. She lunches on rice and native viands and takes a light dinner, usually a sandwich. Despite a sweet tooth and being a chocoholic, she maintains a 24-inch waistline. Her slender frame is flattered by jeans and a spaghetti-strapped shirt or the girlie clothes sourced from her favorite shopping haven, the *tiangge*. Like most students on a budget, she favors Nichido and Ever Bilena makeup to enhance her exotic features and spritzes herself with her favorite scent, Issey.

There are no boyfriends for now. Her ideal partner is an artist, "so we can understand each other's idiosyncrasies." She prefers hanging out with friends and cousins. In her rare free time, she watches dance productions or plays volleyball.

Her family has been Mary's source of strength, especially her mother, Marissa Saludares, who has imparted in her daughter the virtues of discipline and the courage to face challenges. Her mother has been by Mary's side, but when she's alone, Mary values the power of prayer. "I don't run from an obstacle. I believe in facing it, to make myself stronger. When you pray, things just take care of themselves."



Clarity of line: "I don't run from obstacles," says Mary.

By Fab[illegible]pallo
Photos by [illegible] Pinzalan

Great for people's

From training in opera in Detroit to saying Mass in Bohol, Fr. Joseph Skelton has found his mission in the Philippines—and he's using his considerable talent to carry it out

OF THE many stories of foreigners coming to the Philippines for a visit and deciding to stay, perhaps one of the most inspiring is that of Fr. Joseph Skelton of Detroit, Michigan.

We heard of Fr. Joseph two years ago through musician Toti Fuentes, who was then producing an album as a fund-raising effort for his foundation. Included in the album was a number from a priest friend of his assigned to the parish of Tagbilaran, Bohol.

"Great is the Lord" was easily the best cut in the album. Not a few were intrigued. Who was this gospel singer, and what was he doing here in Tagbilaran? We finally met this priest recently, all 5'11", 250 lbs. of him, and over coffee, listened to the first installment of interesting anecdotes he had to tell.

Preordained

As a true man of God, he feels that everything in his life has been preordained by the Holy Spirit, starting from his childhood in Detroit, Michigan, where he was born and raised.

Fr. Joseph grew up in a Protestant family in Detroit; he went to Sunday school, fulfilled the usual practices of good Protestant families. However, at the age of 12, the young Joseph began to take an interest in Catholicism after watching the movies "Song of Bernardette" and "The Cardinal," and becoming attracted to the "man with the big hat."

He would go to the public library, and immersing himself in readings on Catholicism, got even more intrigued by the "splendor of Catholic churches."

"We have very plain Protestant churches. I had never been inside a Catholic church, so when I saw pictures of them, I thought they were so beautiful," he recalls.

This thirst to become a Catholic could no longer be contained, and one day Joseph called the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit and told the nun who answered the phone of his desire. She invited him to attend the high Mass that very same day with the Archbishop of Detroit officiating. He was completely awed by the procession in the huge Gothic church, deciding there and then that this would be his church.

While admitting to having been drawn to the beauty and splendor of Catholic churches and the grandeur of its rituals, Fr. Joseph says that even as a child, he could see beyond all the trappings and knew that Catholics were not worshipping statues, but merely using them as prayer tools.

Even as he has nothing against Masses said in the vernacular, Fr. Joseph confesses to being partial to the traditional. He still dons the traditional vestments while saying Mass, and says Mass in Latin on certain days, facing the altar as in olden times.

At 13, after gaining permission from his mom to convert to Catholicism, he met 68-year old Fr. George Gaynor, who became his mentor and model. To this day, he has never forgotten the words of Fr. Gaynor: "If I had to live my life again, I would still enter the priesthood, because the happiest years of my life have been as a priest."

Having doubts

After high school, the young Joseph earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Sacred Heart Seminary, then enrolled in Theology at St. John's Seminary. A year before finishing, he began having doubts, and decided to leave the seminary for work and some soul-searching in Washington D.C.

It was here that he met Fr. Martin Lucia, founder of a congregation known as the Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament, with a goal of establishing 24-hour Perpetual Adoration vigil chapels in every parish around the world. Father Lucia invited him to go to Manila to finish his uncompleted theology course. But he had no money, and was in debt for US$4,000, so he thought it an impossible venture.

At this point, Fr. Joseph feels that the Holy Spirit once again interceded. Friends, hearing of his dilemma, came up with US$5,000. Soon, he was on his way to the Philippines. The one year theology course extended to three, and his stay in the Philippines extended from three to 13 years. Fr. Joseph knows he has been brought to this country to fulfill a mission for the Holy Spirit.

There is no turning back, he says. In fact, he has already acquired a cemetery plot in Bohol for his final resting place.

Provincial life

"It's wonderful living in the province, with the fresh air and a laid-back happy people, where the Catholic faith is strong," he says, describing his life as a parish priest in the diocese of Tagbilaran. However, precisely because of the strong Catholic tradition, the demands on him are greater. His days are filled with catechism, weddings, baptisms, funerals, and fiestas.

"A priest gives and receives," he continues. "In Bohol, what I have received enhances my spirituality, and invigorates my soul."

His presence in Bohol has inevitably attracted young boys into the priesthood. He speaks of two altar boys in his parish who have signified their desire to enter the seminary. This calls to mind his meeting with a young Italian, who invited him to visit with his family in Milan while Fr. Joseph was still a seminarian. The boy had no desire for the priesthood, but Joseph felt he had a calling and told him so. Years later, he happily found out that the boy had indeed become a priest in Milan.

In reaching out to those who have fallen out of faith, as well as those on the verge of losing their faith, Fr. Joseph has had to go beyond Bohol, to Metro Manila and the major cities, using a medium that could reach more and more people.

This medium is music, which he has been actively pursuing. Even as a child in Detroit, Fr. Joseph was more interested in music than athletics. At the time when he was being drawn to Catholicism, he was likewise being courted by the muse of music.

He joined the Michigan Opera Company at 13 and joined his first opera, Leonard Bernstein's "Mass."

Recording artist

Subsequently, at 15, he performed Handel's "Messiah" with the Madrigal Chorale in Ontario, Canada. He then became part of the Black Gospel Choir from Detroit, turned gospel soloist, and upon reaching the Philippines became a recording artist for Praise Records, performing in concerts all over the country. His most recent performance was at the Pentecost 2006 celebration at the Rizal Coliseum in Manila, aired over RPN-9.

He unequivocally states that Gary Valenciano has achieved so much for the Born Again Christian movement in the Philippines. "Gary V's music is for everyone, and his faith is not compartmentalized." He likes the fact that Gary V. thinks of himself as a secular singer, yet through his "cross-over" manages to touch people's lives.

Fr. Joseph has high praise for the Christians who aggressively pursue their mission through concerts and shows on TV like "The 700 Club." He is saddened, however, that, unlike the Catholics who are "inclusive in always giving reference to 'Our Protestant brothers and sisters,' some Born-Again Christians are more myopic, and do not give recognition to their Catholic brethren."

He also feels that the Filipino Catholics are complacent in their nominal faith, "perhaps because we let our guard down, being the only Catholic country in Asia with the population that's 99 percent Catholic, and we are not challenged to bring people to Christ."

When he watches efforts on television, like the Sunday Mass, Fr. Joseph notices that "we do bland sub-standard stuff. We should be more creative, make our evangelization more exciting, and get our act together."

Unconventional way

He points out many Catholic groups that have done just that, appealing to people in a more unconventional way, like Mike Velarde's El Shaddai, Bo Sanchez's Light of Jesus, Willy Eljar's ELIM Music Ministry, which produces a lot of excellent music, and many others.

Fr. Joseph notices that we have not synthesized our faith. He observes that we go to Mass on Sundays, and the rest of the week we go to work, forgetting our faith, as if our faith should not interfere with our work.

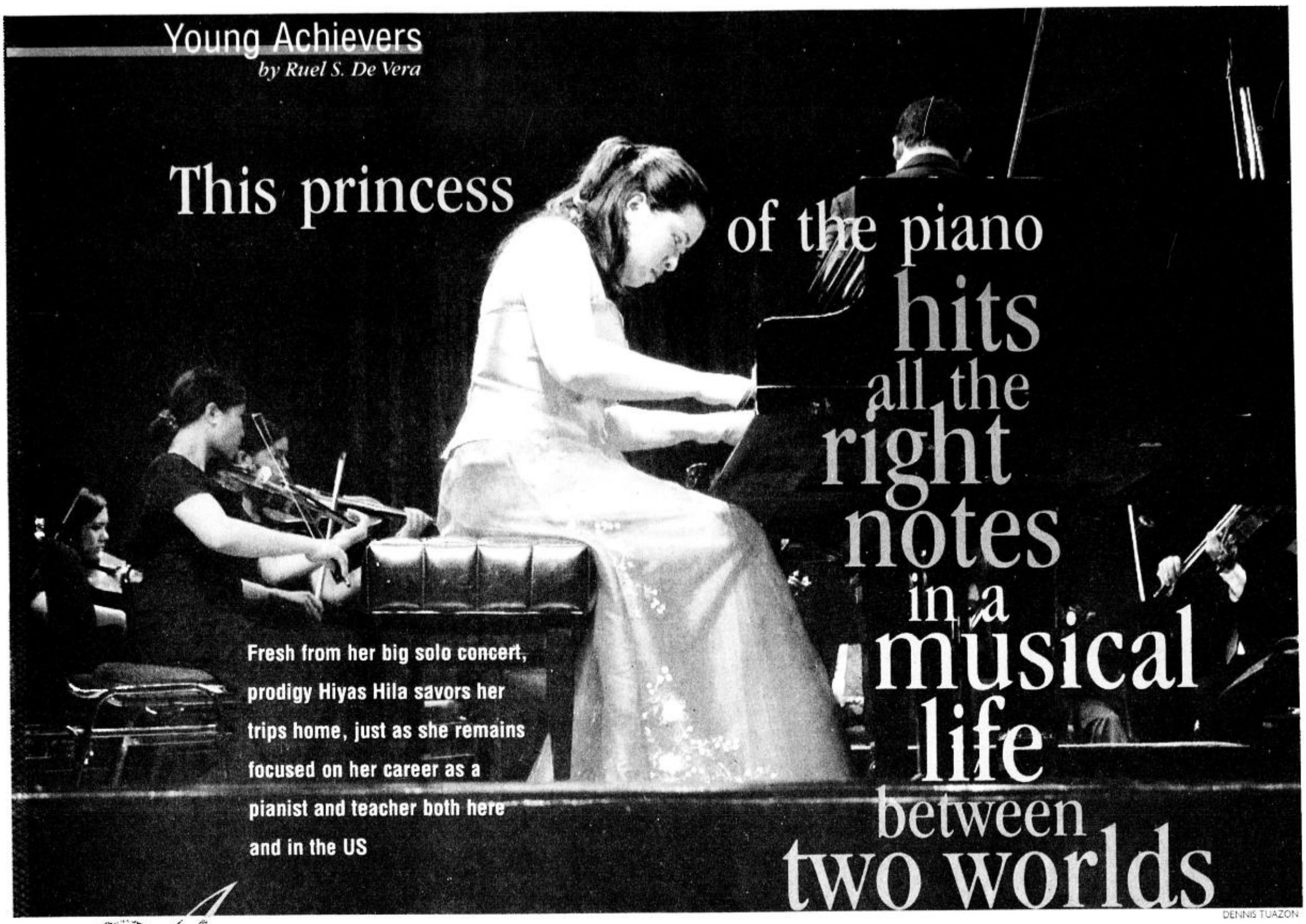
"On a personal level, I hope to do something in my own little way. God has given me a voice, and I should use this to inspire and uplift." He laments the fact that secular music is doing just the opposite, especially with "banal, earthy, hedonistic, sexually-oriented songs."

He hopes that our many excellent singers could come up with more songs, not overtly religious, but which could touch and inspire. Despite the distance between Bohol and Manila, Fr. Joseph pursues his collaboration with composer Vehnee Saturno on an album that would hopefully be exciting, "not the usual drab and dreary sounds often associated with religious songs."

With his luck and track record with the Holy Spirit, it is not unlikely that we will someday soon hear Fr. Joseph's rich baritone lording it over the airlanes, with his messages of hope and love.

by Ruel S. De Vera

This princess of the piano hits all the right notes in a musical life between two worlds



Fresh from her big solo concert, prodigy Hiyas Hila savors her trips home, just as she remains focused on her career as a pianist and teacher both here and in the US

DENNIS TUAZON

SLENDER PIECE of sheet music is thicker than your usual piece of paper. It's pliant, yet sturdy enough to survive repeated turnings by hand. It is rendered strong by the progression of notes on it, suspended by line and lyric. Every composition is a marvel of design, each note just this high and just that low, held in perfect order by the flimsiest of dreams. So, too, are the lives of those who harness music, fate and the key of F falling together.

Hiyas Hila knows this. Becoming a concert pianist may not have been the first thing on her mind, but she wanted her life to be forever linked to the piano.

"Everything just fell into place," the 25-year-old musician says. That has led to a lyrical life spent playing the piano before rapt audiences all over the world, a life locked in competition with other prodigies in packed halls, a life toasted in recital after recital. Last Aug. 11, Hiyas celebrated all that in a concert at the Philamlife Theater with the Manila Symphony Orchestra.

It could only be expected that Hiyas would immerse herself in music, for she is the eldest child of Antonio "Tony" Hila, who writes on music for the INQUIRER and teaches history at De La Salle University. Mother Corazon teaches art history and art theory at the University of the Philippines, but has always enjoyed playing the piano.

Original instrument

It all came so fluidly for Hiyas. "Nobody forced me to take lessons. I always wanted to," she says. But the piano wasn't even her original instrument of choice. She first became interested in playing the violin at 4, and took lessons for two years, beginning when she was 8.

Yet Corazon would teach Hiyas piano at home whenever they had the time. One day, her father heard her playing the piano when she was 10. "I wasn't doing anything at the time and we had a piano at home," Hiyas recalls. "I thought that since I already knew how to read notes, I could do self-study for the piano."

Tony thought that she would benefit from a piano teacher, and Hiyas made the move from violin to piano. She won her first piano competition just months after beginning piano lessons, and kept on winning. In sixth grade at the Jose Abad Santos Memorial School, she received the Cecille B. Licad Scholarship, the first of many grants that would keep her focused on hitting those keys just right.

Thus, music was firmly on Hiyas's mind when she attended the Philippine High School for the Arts in Makiling. She kept playing even when she transferred to Miriam High School and kept playing when she transferred back to PHSA. "I needed the time to prepare for auditions for college, but I already knew I wanted to pursue a degree in music." At that point, it was clear that she wanted to become a pianist.

Hiyas went to the University of the Philippines to study music. After two years, she received a scholarship offer from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. "I chose San Francisco because they gave me a really good offer, and I had relatives in the area and I wouldn't have to make too many adjustments," she says. This was also helped along by a grant from the GlaxoSmithKline Foundation, among other benefactors.

It was the first big leap she had to take. "I had to leave everybody—my friends and my family—and that was my real first experience being away and on my own. But I really wanted to go," she remembers.

Big leap

Corazon says Hiyas never needed any prodding from them. "Not at all," she says, adding that adjusting to Hiyas' being away wasn't too hard. "We had gotten quite used to it because she was in Makiling for a couple of years and she would always be competing or going abroad for festivals," Corazon explains.

Hiyas found student life in the Bay Area to her liking, as she was consistently on the dean's list even as she worked under her mentor, Mack McCray, and received the Sergei Barsukov Scholarship for Piano, aside from continuing her streak of wins.

In 2003, she completed her Bachelor of Music degree, and in 2005, she earned her Master's degree in Piano. And before she could even finish her Master's, she already began auditioning to be able to continue on to her doctorate.

Audition passed, she's now working towards her doctorate at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. "There are only two things that musicians do, and that's performing and teaching, and I plan to do both," she notes. She's getting a lot of experience now, because Hiyas is a teaching assistant in classic piano for non-music majors and elective piano lessons in Minnesota. "I'd get nervous at first, but then you get used to it," she says of teaching.

A different realm

It often feels like musicians exist in a different realm, full of applause and G-clefs, but the truth is Hiyas has an utterly normal life when she's not practicing. She has a boyfriend waiting for her in California. She likes to shop when she has the time. "Before, I'd play badminton and table tennis, but I don't have time for that now," she says. Her favorite activity away from the stage is cooking. "That's like my pastime these days, because I really have to cook for myself," Hiyas says, adding that her specialty is Chicken Afritada.

And of course she flies back to the country whenever she can. The high point of her current stay here was the big concert at Philamlife. In the spotlight, she wove into musical life Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Magic Flute overture and Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major, K. 488," Ludwig van Beethoven's "32 Variations on an Original Theme" and Claude Debussy's "Images Book 1." Yet she goes back to Minneapolis today, as work on her doctorate beckons.

Despite the hard work, there have never been any regrets. A life of call centers and cubicles just isn't for Hiyas. "It really needs a lot of discipline. It's a hard life but I'm happy especially when I perform, and people appreciate my music."

Once shy

Bubbly and given to quick smiles, Hiyas can summon the mood necessary to accompany whatever piece she's playing on stage. Yet away from the klieg lights, she admits to once being quite shy. "You can't be like that in this profession because you have to meet people," Hiyas says.

She's quite serious about her music, and it shows in her schedule. Usually, she practices up to four hours a day. For the Philamlife concert, that would go up to eight hours. Hiyas appears in many recitals, but she will usually have a big show at least once a year.

Truth be told, she finds it hard to single out any particular piece as being her favorite, but she does admit a current affinity for Mozart because it's the 250th anniversary of the immortal composer's birth. "I also like playing Bach and baroque period, and for romantic music, there's a lot of really good composers like Franz Schubert, Frederic Chopin and Robert Schumann," Hiyas says.

It isn't all just classical or orchestral for her. Hiyas listens to jazz and pop when the mood strikes her. After all, she never gets bored with music. "Because music is so rich and diverse. If I only played one kind of music, then I would get bored," she says.

Extremely lucky

She also knows that she has been extremely lucky to have the whole orchestra of elements in her favor: supportive parents, scholarships, auditions, recitals. In particular, she's ecstatic at being able to study in the United States. "I'm very lucky to have very good teachers and to have a lot of competitions," she notes.

Yet she seeks life spent between two worlds. Hiyas, after all, dreams of being able to fly back and forth from the US and the Philippines to ply her piano trade, to play her heart out, to perfect her key strokes, so to speak, and to teach wherever her teaching brings her. Like a piece of music that tugs at her, the future is an unwritten symphony for Hiyas Hila. And she is ready to embrace it with all her heart.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Linked to the piano: Everything just fell into place for Hiyas

This Week

Art

Participants to Mandy Navasero's **Batanes and Other Destinations** workshop will hold a **photo exhibit** from Aug. 24-27 at the North Court, Rockwell Powerplant Mall, Makati City. Navasero will be the guest exhibitor showcasing her images of Batanes, Coron, Iloilo, Guimaras and Butuan. Photographs will be auctioned at 4 p.m. on Aug. 26.

Book Arts 7 at Stairway Gallery presents a broad range of creative expressions in book form featuring artist's books by BenCab, Pandy Aviado, Tony Twigg, Tes Pasola, Junyee, Asao Shimura, Peter Thomas, Winsome Jobling, Loreto Apilado, Ral Arrogante, Clifford Espinosa, Don Salubayba, Bahaghari de Guzman, Louie Stuart, Jason Moss, Rishab Tibon, Del Tolentino, Gus Albor, Loreta Rafisura and Penny Velasco. The exhibition runs until Sept. 16. As an education outreach, there will be a Basic Papermaking workshop on Aug. 27 and a Book Arts Workshop on Sept. 3. Stairway is located at Imacron Media Center Building, 115 Kamuning Road, Quezon City. For inquiries, call 920-1375.

Domeng Labordo's "Gogon," part of the 23rd *Kulay sa Tubig* exhibit at SM Megamall

Reductio Ad Absurdum, recent paintings by Trek Valdizno at Mag:net Gallery ABS, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN Compound, Mother Ignacia Avenue, QC until Aug. 30.

Moving Targets presents Amy Aragon's recent works in acrylic on printed fabric at Mag:net Gallery Katipunan until Aug. 29. For details, call 929-3191.

Galleria Duemila will present two exhibitions, **From the Old Pond, I Ponder** by Roberto M.A. Robles at Gallery A and **Between Structure and Gesture** by R.M. De Leon at Gallery B until Aug. 30. De Leon will exhibit his new paintings in acrylic on paper while Robles will present his abstract paintings. Galleria Duemila is located at 210 Loring St., Pasay City. For details, call 831-9990.

While my canvas gently weeps, installation by Pablo Biglang-awa at CR Gallery. Mag:net Katipunan until Aug. 31.

Indistinct Pleasures, recent series of painting on paper by Christian Tamondong, until Aug. 31 at Frio Mixx Art Space, Shangri-la Plaza Mall.

Practice Must Collapse 5, a group exhibit by Ronald Anading, Felix Bacolor, Rock Drilon, Bernardo Pacquing and Popo San Pascual until Aug. 31 at Mag:net Gallery Paseo, Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeno Street, Makati City.

Three contemporary visual artists Jojo Ballo, Pamela Yan-Santos and Riel Hilario present simultaneous solo exhibits at the Boston Gallery, 72 Boston St. cor. Lantana St., Cubao, QC until Sept. 7. Ballo presents a series of abstract canvases and poetry in **Poems and Mandalas** at the Upper Gallery. Yan-Santos showcases her recent canvases in **Going Places** at the Alcove. Hilario Presents **Homebound Sketches**, a collection of drawings on shaped canvases at the Lower Gallery.

Gallery Genesis presents the **23rd *Kulay sa Tubig***, an annual invitational watercolor competition and exhibition at the Art Center of SM Megamall until Aug. 31.

Onstage

Relive and experience the times of Jose Rizal once more in Gantimpala Theater Foundation's production of ***Kanser* (Noli Me Tangere)**. Playdates are Aug. 20 (Concert at the Park Open-Air Auditorium, Luneta, Manila); Aug. 25, 26, 27, Sept. 1 and 2 (10 a.m./2 p.m., AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo, QC); Sept. 8 and 9 (10 a.m./2 p.m., SM Southmall, Las Piñas City). Call 899-5745 and 896-3503 for tickets.

Dulaang UP presents a satire on the state of television and the consequences on both TV practitioners and the audience in the new play, **Shock Value**, by playwright Floy Quintos. It will run from Aug. 30-31 at 7 p.m.; Sept. 1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 at 7 p.m.; Sept. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17 at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, 2/F, Palma Hall, UP Diliman. For inquiries, call 926-1349.

Tanghalang Pilipino presents **Orfeo *sa Impiyerno***, a Filipino translation of Tennessee Wiliams' searing drama, "Orpheus Descending," starring Shamaine Centenera-Buencamino and Mario O'Hara. The production runs at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino until Aug. 27 with matinee shows at 3 p.m. (Saturdays and Sundays) and evening performances at 8 p.m. (Fridays and Saturdays). Tickets available at Ticketworld outlets or call 832-3661.

Food

Discover **Swagat Indian Cuisine** which has been quietly dishing out great-tasting authentic Indian home cooking in the heart of Makati's corporate jungle. If a customer is uninitiated to Indian fare, the amiable manager is around to lend a helping hand in the food selection having familiarized herself with the Filipino taste bud. For guests' dining preference, food is prepared fresh based on their liking—mild, medium, hot or extra hot. Swagat is at the FCC Building, 119 Rada St., Legazpi Village, Makati City. It is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. It also accepts catering and special functions. For inquiries, call 752-5669, 888-2560 or 0918-2696205, or log on to www.swagatindiancuisineph.com.

Atbp

Find out who among your favorite celebrities have written books, and check out these books at the **27th Manila International Book Fair** from Aug. 30 to Sept. 3 at the World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. With the theme "Make it a Habit!," the book fair unites local and foreign publishers, wholesalers, retailers, book lovers and collectors and every major player in the publishing industry in its continuing efforts to promote books and reading. For details, call 890-0661 or 896-0682.

Join the **Francis Padua Papica National Short Story writing contest** billed *Mga Kwentong Pambata ng* Papica open to children ages 6-12 years old. Entries to the contest must be an original unpublished work by the author and must not exceed 1,500 words. Stories can either be in English or Tagalog but not Taglish. They can either be handwritten or typewritten. Stories may be accompanied with illustrations which are limited to six per story. Only one story from each contestant is allowed. All entries must be accompanied by a completed entry form. Faxed and emailed entries are not accepted. Deadline is Sept. 15. Mail entries to Mga Kwentong Pambata ng Papica , Backroom Inc., Unit 207, 116 CRM Bldg., Kamias Road cor. Kasing Kasing St., Quezon City. For inquiries, call 928-3121 and 435-3808 or log on to www.papicafoundation.com.

St. Jude Academy High School Batch 81 will hold an **alumni homecoming** to celebrate its 25th year on Oct. 21 at Las Veras Restaurant at 6 p.m. For details, contact Joel at 0920-9473026, Cherry at 0920-9607164, and Rosanna at 0927-2231125 / osanfernando@yahoo.com.

Learn the basic techniques of acrylic and watercolor painting at **Ayala Museum's studio workshops for adults** on September. Introduction to Acrylics explores the foundation of painting using traditional painting techniques and includes approaches to painting unique to acrylic users. Introduction to Watercolors teaches students about materials and styles used when applying watercolor and learn the basic color theory and composition. Classes are scheduled on Sept. 9, 16, 23 and 30. For details, call 757-7117 to 21 local 29.

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Dulaang UP stages Floy Quintos' "Shock Value" this month

Pinoy Nga!

by Jess Abrera

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

			2		9			
		6				8		
	5		4		3		1	
2		8				6		7
7		1				5		4
	9		5		4		6	
		2				9		
			6		8			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 8/20

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Answer to previous puzzle

2	4	8	9	6	1	7	5	3
1	9	3	4	5	7	8	6	2
7	6	5	2	3	8	4	1	9
9	2	1	3	8	4	6	7	5
8	5	4	6	7	9	2	3	1
3	7	6	5	1	2	9	8	4
5	1	9	7	4	6	3	2	8
4	8	7	1	2	3	5	9	6
6	3	2	8	9	5	1	4	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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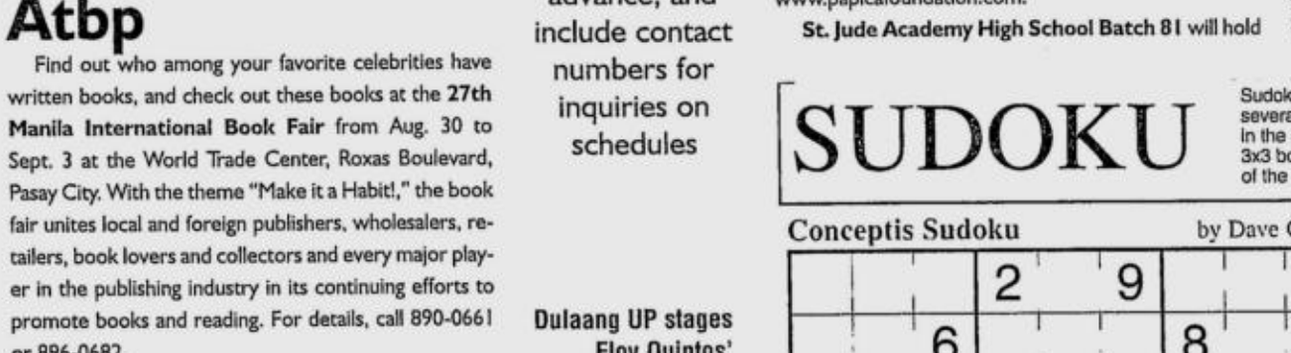
INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Sunday, August 20, 2006



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1. **Visit www.ClickTheCity.com or wap.clickthecity.com.**
2. **Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.**

Channel																				
ABC 5		Ringside TV		EBA Rookie Draft							Todo Max		Philippine Idol			Shall We Dance		ABCinema		
ABS-CBN 2	Your Song: Ang Soundtrack Ng Lovelife	Lovespell		The Buzz				TV Patrol World	Goin' Bulilit			Rated K		Sharon		U Can Dance			Sunday Family Cinema	
AXN		Excess Baggage				E Buzz	Samsung Sports World	WRC 2006 Germany			Fear Factor (Season IV)		Fear		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 3)		CSI: NY (Season 2)		CSI: Miami (Season 4)	
Cartoon Network	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi, The Powerpuff Girls	The Road Runner Show	Tom & Jerry Show	Ed, Edd n Eddy, Planet Sketch, Camp Lazlo, Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		Grim Adventures of Billy & Mandy, Courage The Cowardly Dog, Ed, Edd n Eddy, Camp Lazlo		Robotboy	The Simpsons	Courage The Cowardly Dog				The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons/ Power Rangers Dino Thunder	The Batman/ Gundam Seed Destiny	Power Rangers Dino Thunder/ The Simpsons	Gundam Seed/ The Brak Show	Justice League Unlimited	Aqua Teen Hunger Force/ The Batman
Cinema One				My First Romance				Nanong Mo Na Ba Ang Isip?					Bona				Lagot Ka Sa Kuya Ko!				
Cinemax	Psycho IV: The Beginning (2:40 PM)			Dead Canaries			Sleepless In Seattle			Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind (7:15 PM)					Dawn Of The Dead			Private Parts (10:40 PM)		
CNN		World News		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News			World News	World Sport	Talk Asia		World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Late Edition Live	
Crime & Suspense		I Detective	Extreme Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Cold Case			Cold Case		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		The Grid		Dominick Dunne's Power, Prestige & Justice	
Disney Channel	Art Attack/ Billy & Buddy	Totally Spies/ New Season/ Yr. 4	Kim Possible	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	American Dragon: Jake Long	Emperor's New School	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney				Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN						X Games 11 Classix - Moto X		LPGA Golf: Safeway Classic Presented by Pepsi, Day 3 (10 PM)					Major League Baseball: Saturday						Pro Bowlers '06 Barry Edwards Classics	
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Insider Weekend	Rated Ch! 5	American Dreams		One Tree Hill 3		America's Next Top Model 5			Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Project Runaway 2		Nip/Tuck 3		Rated Ch!	Insider Weekend
ETC 2nd Avenue		Blow Out 2		Today Show - 1 Hour - Pinoy Edition		Dateline		Cold Turkey 2		NBC Nightly News	WSJR		Nanny 911		The Director		West Wing		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood Unscripted
EWTN	Defending Life	Chariot Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octavia Dies	Rome Reports	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Images of Mary	Sunday Mass Live				The World Over Encore		Life Is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
Fox News	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Hour Land With John Kasich		Rio Story Weekend Edition		Betway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday							Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Gigsters	Love To Love		S-Files				Mahiwagang Bakal		Pinoy Meets World			Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel		The Boys Next Door				Crayola: 20,000 Leagues Under The Sea		Crayola: The Tropin Horse		Just Cause			Rocketman		Mom At Sixteen				The Kyng and Queen of Moonlight Bay	
HBO	Entourage 07: The Scene (2:40 PM)	Entourage 08: New York	Twisted Desire			Raising Waylon			The Baby-Sitters Club				Lemony Snicket's A Series Of Unfortunate Events			50 First Dates (9:45 PM)				Grandma's Boy (The New Adult) (11:25 PM)
Hero TV	Machine Robo-Rescue	Dear Boys	Demon Lord Dante	Baki The Grappler	Zenki	Rockman	Peacemaker	Sorcerer Orphen	Barom One	Babel II	Mars The Terminator G3		Voltes V Evolution	Street Fighter OVA			Ragnarok	Demon Lord Dante	Baki The Grappler	
IBC 13		Ang Bagong Hanap Mo?		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		My Final Say On Cha Cha		Pinoy Action Hits					EL SHADDAI			
Jack TV				Comedy Central	Premium Blend	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Distraction	Banzai	American Dad	Family Guy	WWE SmackDown					South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers	Dr Katz
Lifestyle Network	Embellish This	DIY: Crafts	DIY: Jewelry Making	Your Private Island	Extra Living Special		Bare Foot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Wolfgang Puck Specials	Food Network Specials		E! Entertainment Special			Finding Neverland				Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines	Ultrasound Kyla	Designer A Bio-Social Special	MTV News	Get Hitch'd	Homecoming	Room Raiders	Boiling Points	Pimp My Ride	Homewrecker	Punk'D	Wildboyz	MTV Pinoyan Video Music Awards 2006							Rex In the City	MTV Screen	Sessions Kyla
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Presents				MYX Hit Chart			MYX Backtrax	MYX LOG
National Geographic	The Taiwan Touch: Taiwan Wild	Volcano: Super Volcanoes		Explorations Powered By Duracell	Amazing Moments	Best of the Week: Chinese Foot Binding		Volcano: Mega Volcano		Explorations Powered By Duracell	Amazing Moments	Mega Asia: Tau Town - City Of Gold			Best of the Week: Apollo 8: Christmas at Lunar		Nat Geo Explorer: Pentagon		Nat Geo Explorer: Inside the Pentagon	
NBN		Tinig ng Bayan (Saving Grace)						Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Congress in Action		The World Ng President	Under Construction		The Sports List		Pagpaas Ng Ayon Kay		Sapop Events: Thanksgiving Mass - Tinig ng Bayan (Replay)/ NW Center Zone	
Net 25	MC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nalito Sa Talino Dean		Ang Pagbubuyag		Net 25 Weekend Report	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tribe	Convergence	Ang Mga Nalito Sa Talino Dean			Ang Tamang Daan		Net 25 Weekend Report	Euromaxx	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tomorrow Today
Nickelodeon	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Just For Kicks	Catscratch	Avatar: Legend Of Aang	Danny Phantom	Troilz	Sponge Bob Square Pants	Just For Kicks	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle		Girls In Love	The Amanda Show	The Brothers Garcia	Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Kumakasa Lumalaban!				Bet rang Kabayo 2				Ang Masis Kong Hooduni!					Side A Acoustic				Gloria Enchantera
Q tv		Lois And Clark		Galaxy Angels		Bongga Ka Star		Ang Pinaka...		Pop Star Kids		May Trabaho Ka			Sunday Super Girl				Groupee TV	
RPN 9		Golf Power	Fistorama		Sure Hits	WWE SmackDown		JAG		Navy Nics		Without A Trace			Sunday's Big Event					The Working President
SBN 21				Buhay Pinoy		Sheperds Voice		New Life				Oras Ng Himala			Oras 09 Kapuso Mo Jessica Soho		Gabay Al Aksiyon			
Solar Sports		World Pool 2006 Masters		World Pool 2006 Masters		World Pool 2006 Masters		World Pool 2006 Masters		2006 FIBA World Champs Ladies' Fiba Hoops Show					2006 FIBA World Champs Ladies' USA Vs China				Bench Volleyball: PVL Women's Semifinal (M)	
Sports Plus			Inside the PGA	Motoring Today		BMI Clay Shooting	Nopi Tunervision	NASCAR Nextel Cup Highlights		World Game		World's Greatest Auto Show Year Interview			Racing World		This Is The PGA		Bowling: Greater Detroit Classic Day 2	
Star Movies		The Rockefeller (3:15 PM)				The Cardigan (5:10 PM)			Hollow Man (9:55 PM)					The Ticket	Eli Mira			The Mummy Returns		
Star World		The Office	Arrested Development	Kevin Hill		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	The Apprentice		Theme Park Road Trip		Oprah Winfrey Show			Andrea Boehl		Parkinson		Hollywood Shortcuts	Oprah Winfrey Show
Studio 23						Exposed					Y Speak Live		US Girls		Desperate Housewives		Roma Downtown (10:15 PM)	You Caring (10:45 PM)		Angel

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

A new lease on life after Lebanon

LIKE MANY OFWS BEFORE HER, Elizabeth Tagaro left the Philippines for Lebanon because she wanted to make life better for her family. But cruel employers and an even more cruel war forced her to come back home to an uncertain future. While life abroad may not have been kind for her and many of her kababayans, her homecoming seems to promise better, brighter things.

By coincidence, her homecoming was just in time for her 35th birthday. And, true to the indomitable optimism of the Filipino, this single mother of a 10-year old girl chooses to see the brighter side of life, considering her escape from the war and her abusive employer as blessings. Now, she can begin another year in her life with renewed hope - and a little help from Globe.

GLOBE'S Dada Dyiangco (left) awarded a Globe AutloadMAX retailer SIM phonekit to Elizabeth Tagarao (right), soon after the latter's arrival at NAIA.

Hardships in Lebanon

Life in Lebanon was hard for Elizabeth. Her employer would shout at her for the tiniest mistake. "They would throw appliances at me if I didn't know how to use them," she added. She also says her employer did not pay her on time. She received just half of her overdue pay only after she informed her agency.

Eating was difficult, because her employers forbade her to even cook rice for herself. "We would hide when we cooked rice because we could get scolded. We were always told to just eat whatever was given to us," Elizabeth recalled.

After over a year of working under such conditions, her situation worsened when the war broke out between Lebanon and Israel. Elizabeth worried constantly, as the explosions were sometimes so close that she could see them from her window.

Despite her fears for her safety, Elizabeth was not allowed to go home. Tired, overworked, underpaid, and now fearing for her life, she decided to take matters into her own hands.

Secretly, she packed her things and waited for her chance to escape. Knowing that her employer's family was always away on Sundays, Elizabeth sneaked out one weekend without a passport and with just US$50 (about P2,500, not even half of her month's salary) in her pocket. For her, rejoining her family was the only thing that mattered.

Out of desperation, she even paid US$30 for a taxi to take her safely to the Church of the Miraculous Medal, where the parish priest, Fr. Agustin Advincula, was offering sanctuary to many OFWs escaping from the war. The next two harrowing days were spent waiting for a chance to travel safely to Syria, where an airplane was waiting to take them home.

Globe helps out

Elizabeth was only too relieved when she flew back to Manila recently. The tired but reassured Elizabeth and her fellow OFWs were greeted with cheers as they stepped off the plane. Everyone was given a chance to talk to their families via Globe's free call service.

A pleasant surprise was in store for Elizabeth, whose birthday was just two days away, as Globe personnel presented her with a Globe AutoloadMAX retailer SIM phonekit to help her start over. As someone who suddenly had an uncertain future ahead of her, Elizabeth found in Globe's gift a new means of livelihood. With a retailer SIM, Elizabeth could sell prepaid load credits and earn some income.

"It's such a big help and relief that Globe gave me an AutoloadMAX SIM to help me earn a living. I was also even able to text my family and friends," she said. Elizabeth still has dreams and hopes of a better life for her family. Right now, she is saving up to work abroad again - but this time, not in the Middle East.

Elizabeth knows that things will turn out for the best, because anything is possible. After all, she left Lebanon with almost nothing to her name, but came home with a new lease on life.

PARTNERSHIP OF TWO GREAT COMPANIES

Unilab and Toyota recently forged a business alliance through an order of over 300 units of the Vios, the Altis and the Hilux. The event was commemorated with a ceremonial key turnover represented by Mariano John Tan, Jr. of Unilab and Santos Guerrero of Toyota Motor Philippines. Included in the picture are (from left): Alex Cruz (Unilab), Alberto Manlapit (Unilab), Armando Bajacan (Unilab), Apolonio Matic (Unilab), Daniel Isla (TMP) and Takayuki Kochi (TMP).

DDB TURNS OVER DONATION TO AFADA

The Dangerous Drugs Board recently extended financial aid for a rehab center through Afada (Association of Families Against Drug Abuse). Photo shows DDB Undersecretary Romeo Vera Cruz turning over the P302T check to Afada president Gigi Libby. Looking on are (from left): Dr. Rannie Blanco, DDB-EU TRC physician; Teresita Pineda, DDB PETID acting chief; Dr. Sarah Bellosillo, DDB medical officer; Usec. Vera Cruz; Carina Casinares, Afada treasurer; Gigi Libby; Arlene Escalada, Afada director; Lydia Litiatco, DDB-EU TR center director; Santy Moya, Afada director; Aida Lubrica, Afada assistant treasurer; Jeana Tolosa, Afada secretary; lawyer Cesar Posada, DDB legal officer; and DDB executive director Edgar Galvante.

PHILAMLIFE, DEPED SIGN MOA

Philamlife recently launched its pioneering advocacy project, Planning for the Future, in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd). The four-year program for public high school students in the National Capital Region aims to develop and enhance learning and skills of the Filipino youth in subjects such as time, wealth and even life management. Signing the Memorandum of Agreement are (from left) Philamlife EVP for sales, marketing and agency training Jesus Hofileña, Philamlife president and Ceo Jose L. Cuisia, Jr., DepEd Undersecretary Fe A. Hildalgo and Linda Legaspi, president of Mary Lindbert International. Philamlife, the country's largest and most trusted life insurance company, is a member of the American International Group Inc (AIG), the world's leading international insurance organization.

Make your tomorrow secure with BPI Family Get Started Savings Account

WANTING TO PROVIDE A MORE STABLE future for your family is natural for Filipinos. This is the primary reason why most work hard and go through great lengths just to meet the needs of their loved ones. To help more families prepare for their future, BPI Family Savings Bank recently launched the BPI Family Get Started Savings Account at Gilligan's Island, Park Square 1, Makati.

The venue was transformed into a cruise ship where guests had an exciting time. TV personality Suzi Entrata-Abrera served as the host and cruise director who helped make the guests feel secure while having fun.

Just like being on a cruise trip, the guests were treated to a worthwhile experience, the unveiling of a service that will guide them to a better future. The only savings account with a built-in free life insurance benefit, the Get Started Savings Account ensures that your family is supported during the trying times.

"Under the Get Started Savings Account, your deposit earns interest by maintaining an average daily balance of P10,000. Plus, you get insurance coverage from no less than Ayala Life. There's no need to pay insurance premiums or undergo a medical checkup. You just open an account with a minimum initial deposit of P5,000 and you automatically get an insurance coverage that is five times the amount of your average daily balance. You can even have up to P2 Million in insurance coverage. This is BPI Family Bank's way of providing people an easier way to get started on their future," says Nita Claravall, SVP for marketing of BPI.

The Get Started Savings Account It is not your usual investment tool because while you regularly deposit even just a small amount to save for your family's future, you also increase your insurance coverage. It is the only bank service that lessens the worries of having to pay something you may deem unnecessary for now and yet offers security for the future as you save up.

Just like the regular savings account, the Get Started Savings Account also comes with an Express Teller ATM card which allows the account holder to access funds anytime through the 3,000 Express Teller, Expressnet and Megalink ATMs nationwide. For added convenience, they can also do their banking transactions through BPI Express Phone 89-100, BPI Express Online or through cell phones with the BPI Express Mobile.

For a different kind of entertainment during the event, the guest-cruisers aboard M/V PI Family had barrels of laughter with the performance of the Silly People's Improv Theater or Spit. The crowd enjoyed games prepared by the group, which reinforced the message of the event while having fun.

Also during the program, three members of the media were lucky to have won Get Started Savings Accounts with P5,000 each in the raffle. Winners who will now Get started on a more secure future are Charity Calderon of Mod Magazine, Jun Vicencio of Taliba and Kiko Dagohoy of RPN 9.

"The value of ensuring a better and more secure future for their families is one of the things we want to foster among them. By just depositing in a BPI Family Get Started Savings Account, they are sure that they have saved up for the rainy days and that there's a steady hand that will guide their families to a more secure future," says BPI Family president Alfonso Salcedo, Jr.

With the BPI Family Get Started Savings Account with free life insurance, more families can now get started on a better life ahead.

PLDT, SMART JOIN DEPED'S BRIGADA ESKWELA

In support of the Department of Education's (DepEd) National Schools Maintenance Week, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co (PLDT) and Smart Communications Inc (Smart) participated in school repair and beautification activities at the Diosdado Macapagal Elementary School (DMES) in Tatalon, Quezon City recently. The weeklong event, dubbed as 'Brigada Eskwela (Bayanihan Para sa Paaralan', is a nationwide clean-up drive in public schools. From May 15 to 19, several schools all over the country were recipients of this voluntary effort which ensured school children of a clean and healthy environment in time for the opening of classes in June.

DAVAOEÑO WINS P100,000 IN MINOLA TEXT PROMO

For the second time, a resident of Davao City becomes the P100,000 winner in the Sarap Manalo, Sarap Minola promo of Minola Cooking Oil. Twenty-six-year-old Clarence Gonzaga of Piapi Boulevard was awarded the check for the weekly cash prize in the presence of San Pablo Manufacturing Corp president Danilo M. Coronacion, VP for domestic marketing Dr. Antonio V. Concepcion, and area sales manager George Banzali in Davao City. Earlier, Elona Nagan of Cabantian also won P100,000 in the fifth weekly draw. The Sarap Manalo, Sarap Minola promo kicked off in March and will end in August. To join, consumers must text the unique promo code found in Minola products to 2966. Prizes include P100,000 for the weekly draws and P1 million for the grand draw.

Pana releases 3rd issue of AdEdge

WITH THE ALREADY COMPETITIVE MARKETing arena made more complex by irrefutable factors such as price hikes, new taxes, and political instability, affixed with the apprehension of foreign investors and the onslaught of erratic consumer behavior, marketers agree that these are indeed tough times. But in spite of this challenging era in Philippine business, the Filipino marketer must remain resilient, dynamic, and resourceful. He must be driven to innovation to remain competitive. He must be on the constant outlook for ways on how to reinvent the business. The 3rd issue of AdEdge is specifically themed to comply with the present economic and market conditions. It highlights effective marketing tools and techniques designed to help the Filipino marketer survive amidst trying times. It comprises actual case studies of top corporations who have flourished through the employment of adaptive marketing techniques. And it offers insights by seasoned marketing authorities on how marketers can make the most out of their marketing efforts. Specifically, the 3rd issue of AdEdge showcases indispensable insights by no less than the Super Brands Nestlé, Coca-Cola, and Sara Lee. It features carefully selected marketing topics such as "The Power of Visual Merchandising", "Best Practices in Lead Management", "Tactics for Low-Cost Promotions", and "The Role of Public Relations in Brand-Building". Known to be a source of comprehensive and multi-dimensional information, the latest issue of AdEdge is believed to be the richest issue to date. It is a must-have for the modern-day marketing practitioner who desires to be equipped with "genuine-never-before-published" insights. AdEdge is now available at the following National Book Store branches: NBS – Cubao Superbranch, NBS – SM Megamall, NBS – Glorietta, and NBS – Filinvest (Festival Supermall). For inquiries, you may contact the Pana Secretariat at 894-0474 to 75 or 894-0012 to 13 or visit the Pana website at www.pana.com.ph.

BMAP's 3rd Badminton Cup organized for camaraderie

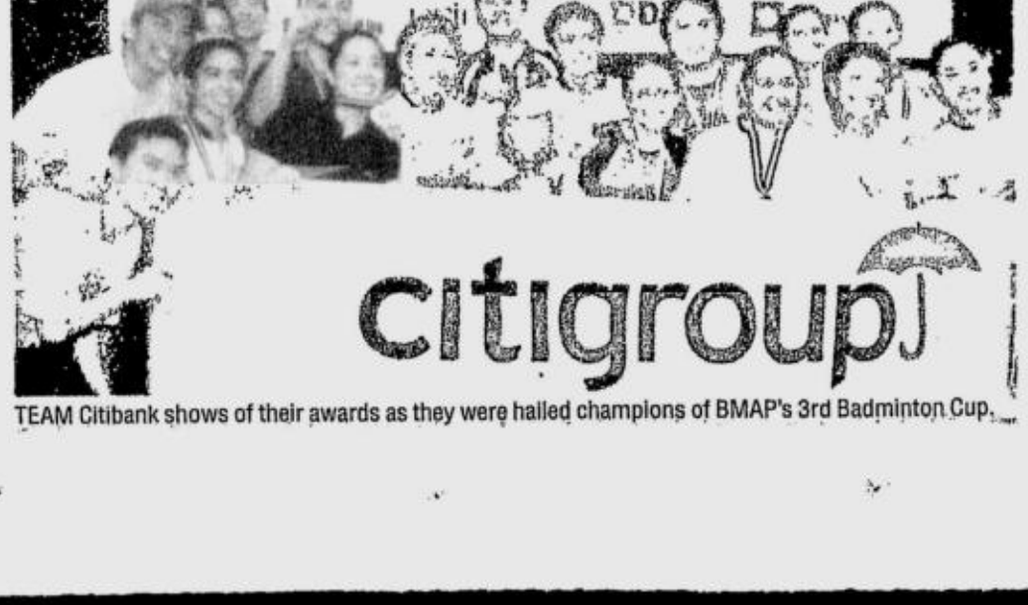
To promote amity among member companies, Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines (BMAP), the country's premier organization of trusted banks and marketing companies, in cooperation with Badminton Asia, recently held the 3rd BMAP Badminton Cup at the Zone, Makati City.

The Badminton Cup, which member banks participated in amidst the heavy outpour of rain, made it possible to bring together the people behind the Filipinos' most talented shuttlers in the banking industry. The bankers and marketing professionals' speed, strength, agility, mental power and team work were put to test as they swoosh the racket to the opponent's side and sprint from corner to corner to defend their post, all in the spirit of sportsmanship.

In the end, Citibank emerged as Bracket A champion with Union Bank as runner-up, while Metrobank bagged Bracket B championship with China Bank as runner-up. A fax machine, a personal copier, an Ipod Shuffle, and several other perks from sponsors were also given away as raffle prizes. Television personality Ericka Fife perked up the event as host.

The 3rd BMAP Badminton Cup was presented by Globe Solutions and Globe Quest with Plantersbank, Development Bank of the Philippines and Prime Magazine as major sponsors. Bank of China, Canon, Gold's Gym, Alaska Milk Corp, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Business Mirror, Unilever Philippines, Universal Robina Corp and Commonwealth Foods Inc, also helped make this event a smashing success.

BMAP has been organizing events like this to promote solidarity and friendship among member companies. They also conduct seminars that aim to enhance their employees competitiveness in the field.



TEAM Citibank shows of their awards as they were hailed champions of BMAP's 3rd Badminton Cup.

ENTERTAINMENT / E4

Lovi Poe's unforgettable memory of FPJ: He scolded me for lying

LIFESTYLE / C1

Brad Pitt a client like any other, says top furniture designer

SPORTS / A30

Tiger surges to share lead in PGA championship

BUSINESS / B2-1

Cordillera gold hunt not as easy as one sees in the movies

Anti-Red tack: Soldiers rock n' roll with 'masa'

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO —The five-piece band sported military uniforms.

Instead of lugging M-16s, the members

ANTI-RED/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, August 21, 2006 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 254 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Studes bake 500-m long bread with durian filling

By Dennis Jay Santos
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—THE LONG STRETCH OF THIS baking delight may be a turnoff to people with a discriminating sense of smell.

Students at the Philippine Women's College (PWC) here on Saturday baked a half-a-kilometer-long bread with durian filling in what, they

STUDES/ A12

Ex-SC justice heads probe of leftist slays

House cuts last strands to prove GMA legitimacy

By Amando Doronila

THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE of the House of Representatives voted 56-24 on Wednesday to throw out summarily the second impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo with the swiftness of Dr. Joseph-Ignace Guillotin's fiendish invention that decapitated the French monarchy during the Reign of Terror of the French Revolution.

ANALYSIS

The decapitation of King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette marked the end of the period of royal absolutism, paving the way for the turmoil of the Terror and the rise of another from of absolutism, the dictatorship of Napoleon installed under the banner of *liberté, fraternité, egalite*—the flaming battle cry of a republican revolution that created tidal waves for democracy all over the world.

The House dismissal of the second complaint on the ground of "insufficiency of substance" was so summary. Beating the speed record of the dismissal of the first complaint last year, the fresh complaint was dispatched "within six session days"—the deadline set by the committee to dispose of the case.

HOUSE/ A8

Jose Melo, NBI chief, bishop in commission

By Belinda Olivares Cunanan

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO LAST NIGHT announced the creation of an independent commission to be headed by former Supreme Court Associate Justice Jose Melo to investigate the spate of extrajudicial killings of journalists and leftist activists.

Ms Arroyo made the announcement over the dzRH radio program "Radyo Balintataw" that this writer cohosts with presidential assistant on culture Cecile Guidote Alvarez every Sunday evening, where she was the guest.

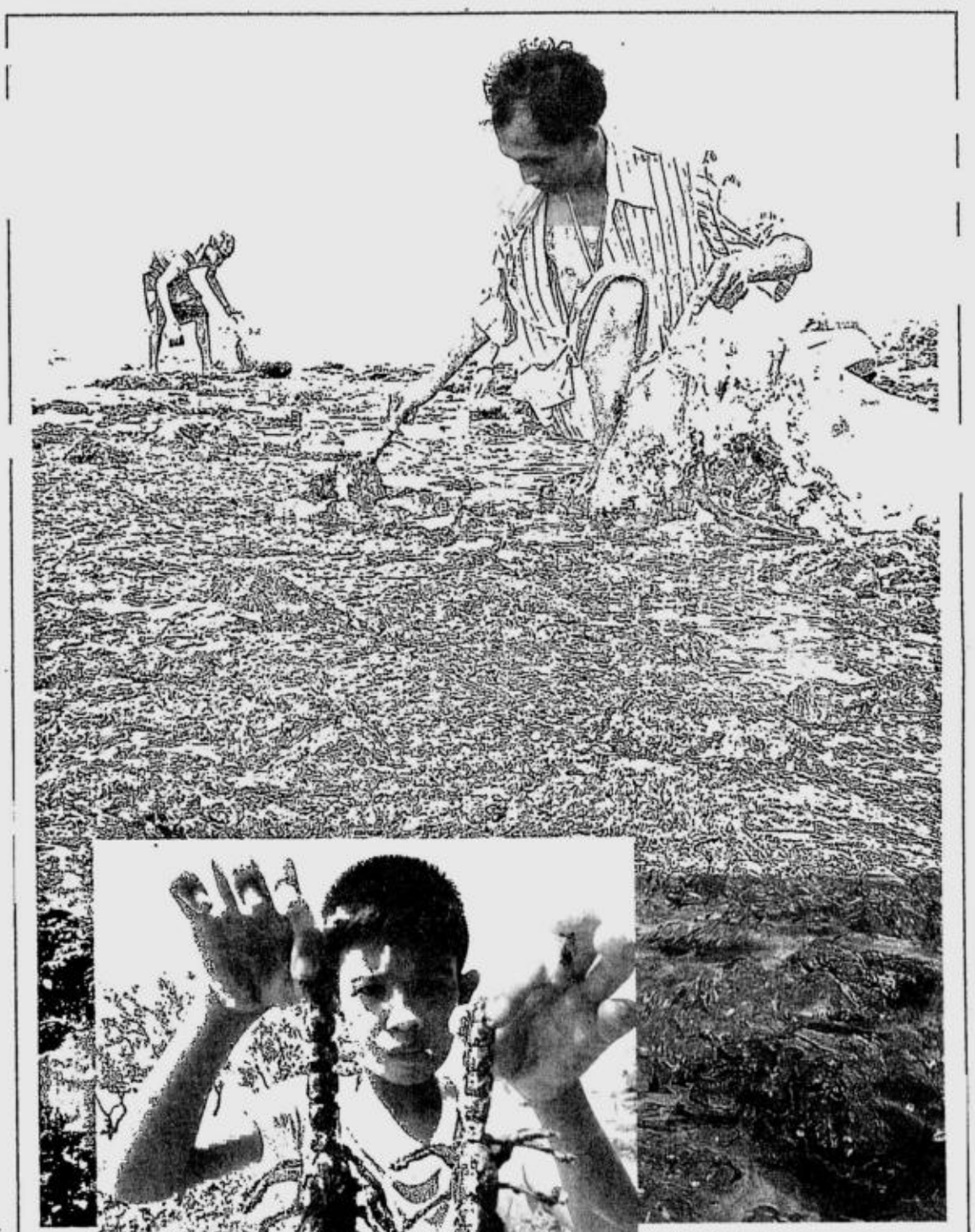
Ms Arroyo said she had signed an order creating "A Commission to Conduct an Independent Probe of the Killings of Media Practitioners and Militant Activists."

The commission will have five members.

Two members from the government sector—National Bureau of Investigation Director Nestor Mantaring and Chief Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño—and two from the private sector—Bishop Camilo Gregorio of Batanes and civic leader Nelia Teodoro-Gonzalez of the University of the Philippines Board of Regents—have been appointed to the commission.

Ms Arroyo stressed that she deliberately timed the promulga-

EX-SC JUSTICE/ A4



BUNKER oil from a sunken tanker off Guimaras Island has reached the resort island and marine sanctuary of Nagarao, and residents are racing against time to clean up the shoreline.

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

THE oil spill has destroyed these crustaceans and other marine creatures. AP

REMEMBERING NINOY

'Fast talker' loved chop suey

By Fe Zamora

BENIGNO "NINOY" AQUINO JR. loved noodles, chop suey and lots of talk about the excesses of the Ferdinand Marcos regime.

Muslim historian Norodin Lucman recalled what Aquino did and said as he drove Marcos' foremost political rival around during a trip to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia in June 1981, upon the instruction of his late father, Sultan Rashid Lucman.

Aquino, who was assassinated on his return to Manila on Aug. 21, 1983, after three years of self-exile in the United States, had traveled to Saudi Arabia for an audience with the late King Khalid and to deliver speeches before an international forum.

The audience with the king was arranged by the elder Lucman, who was himself an exile in the Middle East.

The young Lucman, who had been a university student in Cairo and Mecca, said he tried his best at playing perfect driver and tour guide to Aquino and his companions, former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, Japanese journalist Kiyoshi

FAST/ A6

A WORKER polishes the statue of Benigno Aquino Jr. at the Baywalk in Manila. The former senator was assassinated 23 years ago today. ERIK ARAZAS

Ninoy sister finds renewal, forgiveness

By Gerry Lirio

FOR THE FIRST TIME, FORMER Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta wants to publicly say she's sorry to all those she may have offended with her impromptu dance during the Estrada impeachment.

Her jig, which was caught on television and for which she was dubbed the "dancing queen," added to the popular outrage over the aborted trial that triggered the Edsa II revolution in January 2001.

"I have asked God for forgiveness for all the things I have done," she told the INQUIRER in an interview at her Urdaneta Village home in Makati late Saturday night.

"And now, I would also like to ask the people, the Filipino nation, for forgiveness for the arrogant manner, for the haughty attitude, or simply for making them sad through my action (during the impeachment)."

Aquino-Oreta said she had found the strength to face her critics as a result of her "renewed relationship with God" and the inspiration she got while looking back at the lives of her mother,

NINOY/ A6

Petron to suck out sunken oil

By Norman Bordadora
in Manila
Carla P. Gomez
and Nestor Burgos
Inquirer Visayas

OIL REFINER PETRON CORP. is seriously considering removing some 1.8 million liters of bunker fuel oil from the hold of the sunken MT Solar I and salvaging the vessel off Guimaras Island to eliminate the source of an oil spill, the environment group World Wildlife Fund-Philippines said yesterday.

Lorenzo Tan, WWF-Philippines president, said "Petron has some very impressive technical equipment and technical teams in place, and is in touch with foreign contractors for the elimination of the remaining oil hazard from the wreck."

Tan said Petron was finalizing yesterday afternoon the hiring of a Singapore contractor to locate the sunken vessel so that it could suck out the remaining bunker fuel.

He said the contractor will bring in sonar equipment to locate the vessel, after which it will send down a remote-controlled submersible to suck out the fuel using a "hot tap."

It was Petron that hired Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., owner of the Solar I, to transport 2 million liters of bunker fuel from its refinery in Limay, Bataan, to Zamboanga del Sur.

The tanker sank 24 km off Guimaras on Aug. 11 and is now sitting 900 meters under water, beyond the reach of Filipino divers.

The Philippines earlier sought help from the United States, Japan and Indonesia to help refloat the sunken tanker and clean up the oil spill.

Tan said the bunker oil would be sucked out before the sunken vessel was salvaged to avoid a breakup that could cause the fuel to spread further.

He also said that the oil in

PETRON/ A12

Black blob chokes livelihood of shell gatherers

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Inquirer Visayas

NUEVA VALENCIA, GUIMARAS—Like her husband's fishing boat, the plastic container that Rebecca Gandecila used for gleaning seashells in the mudflats near their home has been beached and empty for more than a week now.

It brought tears to her eyes when she recalled that the seashells had earned her at least P30 a day, enough to buy her a kilo of rice and a bar of detergent.

Gandecila's children also earned their school allowance by gathering shell fish with her on weekends.

Now the tidal flats reek of dead, rotting shells, their stench competing with the unpleasant smell of bunker fuel.

BLACK/ A12

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will experience monsoon rains becoming frequent over the western section especially over Northern and Central Luzon which may trigger flash floods and landslides. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/08/20/06 SOURCE PAGASA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

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MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2006

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Gloria begins mending fences

Ninoy Aquino Day rites mark start of 'charm offensive'

Christine O. Avendano

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, ECSTATIC after the thrashing of the latest impeachment complaint against her, is mending political fences and her first charm offensive will be at ceremonies today marking the 23rd death anniversary of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

There, she will join former President Corazon Aquino, one of the leaders of the campaign to oust her over allegations she stole the 2004 elections. Relations between the two have been icy since the "Hello Garci" controversy surfaced last year.

Ms Arroyo attended the El Shaddai anniversary on Saturday night and renewed her wish to reconcile with opponents who have been seeking her resignation.

To prove her sincerity, Ms Arroyo will be very much present in activities marking the assassination the former Senator Aquino on Aug. 21, 1983, on his return from three years of self-exile in the United States to rally the fractured opposition against the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship.

Ms Arroyo will attend the 8 a.m. wreath-laying and tree-planting ceremony at the Ninoy Aquino Monument on P. Burgos street corner Roxas Blvd.

She will be giving a "special message" at the ceremony, which will also be attended by Aquino's brother, Makati Rep. Butz Aquino, and Manila Mayor Jose Atienza.

Ms Arroyo will then attend a noon mass for Aquino at the Edsa Shrine on Ortigas, according to Presidential chief of Staff Michael Defensor.

A Palace advisory said one minute of silence and the ringing of the church bells in parishes along the funeral route of Aquino's cortege will be observed at 1 p.m.

Aides said the President had been on cloud 9 since the House justice committee on Wednesday junked the second impeachment case against her for alleged culpable violation of the constitution, graft and corruption and other high crimes.

A House plenary was scheduled to affirm the committee decision in a vote this week.

Defensor earlier told reporters that the administration was asking the opposition to cooperate on common concerns such as the government's evacuation of Filipino workers in war-torn Lebanon and the passage of the supplemental budget.

Yesterday, Defensor told the INQUIRER that he would have by next week the "road map" to this reconciliation effort.

"I'm confident it's possible," he said.

Presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio said the President had always been open to reconciliation. He said healing the wounds of Edsa I and Edsa II was part of the President's 10-point agenda.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that with the impeachment move behind her, the President could concentrate on putting the country on the road to prosperity.

"The failure of the impeachment attempt is a victory for our economy and a focus on moving the nation forward," Bunye said in a statement.

"It once again put in stark relief the divide that exists between President Arroyo's vision for getting things done, and that of the opposition to shut down progress," he said.

Bunye said that people were weary of the "political soap opera."

"They want Congress to focus on policy, not politics," he said, stressing the need for Congress to pass legislation like the antiterror bill and attending to national issues like education, environment and the economy.

Militants say GMA hasn't learned lesson of Ninoy

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo has yet to learn the lesson of the 1983 assassination of former Sen. Benigno Aquino and that is "repression breeds resistance," the leftist Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said yesterday.

Bayan secretary general Renato M. Reyes Jr. said the administration "has taken the Marcosian path of killing or assassinating its political opponents."

"The murder of Ninoy Aquino, an opponent of the Marcos dictatorship, was one of the clearest examples of political killings under a fascist regime," Reyes said.

Citing the more than 700 cases of alleged extrajudicial killings since Ms Arroyo took office in 2001, Reyes said the Arroyo administration was treading the same path of political assassinations to cling to power.

Arroyo commission

"Ninoy was among the many victims killed under the Marcos dictatorship. Eventually, the Marcos dictatorship collapsed because people fought back. Ms Arroyo should be reminded that repression can only breed resistance," Reyes said.

"Standing up to a fascist dictatorship, even if it meant death, was Aquino's biggest contribution to our nation's history."

Reacting to Ms Arroyo's decision to set up a commission to look into the political killings, Reyes said the commission must meet "certain criteria before victims and survivors can actually work with (it)."

He said it must be given, among others, the power to summon top policemen and soldiers.

Militants believe the killings are part of a state policy to decimate their ranks and crush their electoral machinery.

Subpoena powers

"A real independent commission should have a clear mandate. It should have sufficient powers to investigate the killings, subpoena top police and military officials, look into records and rosters of the police. It should also not limit itself to the investigations being already undertaken by the PNP and AFP because most of these are sham," Reyes said.

Bayan and its allies have refused to cooperate with the police Task Force Usig formed to look into the murders on suspicion that it would not delve into who were really behind the killings.

Bayan saw in the creation of an independent commission a "tacit admission that current efforts of Task Force Usig are not enough."

"The administration may also be bowing to intense political pressure here and abroad," Reyes said.

He said: "A real independent probe body should be able to file the necessary criminal and administrative charges against even top police and military officials if they are proven (to be) involved in the killings."

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas said Malacañang should have no role in choosing the members of an investigating commission.

"If she (Ms Arroyo) is the one who picks its composition, then its integrity would already be blemished from the start," the group said. "Only those who are politically naïve or overly optimistic would say that an independent commission can really be formed by Malacañang."

Stop grandstanding

Malacañang said it was doing its best to stop the killings.

"The investigation of extrajudicial killings has been stepped up and the creation of a commission to handle this issue will put our efforts in high gear," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

"Instead of grandstanding, why don't we set aside the political noise and just pitch in toward resolving this issue." *With reports from Luige A. del Puerto, Christine O. Avendaño and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

MEMBERS OF BAYAN stage a lightning rally in front of the Ninoy Aquino monument on Ayala Ave. corner Paseo de Roxas in Makati City yesterday ahead of the commemoration of Aquino's 23rd death anniversary today. ERIK ARAZAS

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Thanks for keeping hospital in Palace, Loi tells Gloria

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL?

Opposition Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito yesterday thanked President Macapagal-Arroyo for scuttling her plan to relocate the Malacañang clinic from the Palace grounds to the highly restricted Presidential Security Group compound across the Pasig River.

"I am happy to learn that Mrs. Arroyo realized in time that her plan would deprive our poor compatriots, particularly those suffering from liver diseases, free medical services started during the term of President Erap," Ejercito said in a statement.

Ms Arroyo on Saturday issued orders to keep the laboratory, X-ray and dialysis equipment at the Malacañang clinic, but transferred the rest of the facilities to the PSG headquarters on the other side of the river, virtually avoiding another flashpoint of confrontation with the Estradas.

The sudden change of plan came a day after Ejercito criticized the relocation as "heartless" since this would make the clinic inaccessible to the poor, and after patients and relatives clamored that it be kept at its present location.

The clinic was a pet project of Ejercito, when her husband Joseph Estrada was President and she was First Lady from 1998 to 2001. It catered to indigent patients from Metro Manila and its environs who could not afford the exorbitant P3,000 dialysis fee per session at private hospitals and clinics.

Ejercito, however, said she would visit Malacañang this week to check on the condition of the 15 dialysis machines and high-tech laboratory equipment that were acquired during her husband's term, abruptly cut short by a people's revolt in January 2001.

She reiterated her desire that the machines and equipment be turned over to her office for possible distribution to poorly equipped public hospitals.

"If they don't need the laboratory equipment and dialysis machines, they can turn these over to us so we can distribute them to provincial hospitals for the greater benefit of the Filipino masses," she said. *TJ Burgonio*

Cayetano dares GMA: Sign waiver, let us look into German acc't

By Michael Lim Ubac

HOUSE DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER ALAN Peter Cayetano yesterday dared President Macapagal-Arroyo to issue a waiver so that government investigators could look into an account in a German bank believed to belong to a member of the First Family.

Administration allies dismissed Cayetano's demand as nothing more than a "witch-hunt and new fishing expedition" that smacked of "trial by publicity."

They said in a joint statement that Cayetano's allegation showed how the opposition had grown "desperate" after the House committee on justice Wednesday thrashed the second attempt to impeach the President over election fraud and corruption charges.

"I challenge the President and her family to issue the waiver similar to what Senator Panfilo Lacson did when he was accused of having foreign bank accounts," Cayetano told the INQUIRER, referring to an affidavit containing a waiver of rights to bank secrecy.

Accused of having substantial dollar accounts in the US and Hong Kong, Lacson issued a waiver to allow investigators to look into the supposed deposits. Despite the media hype, the government failed to come up with concrete evidence to support its allegation against Lacson.

Cayetano denied naming First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo as the owner of bank account number 87-570-23030-32100-62771571 at the Hypovereins Bank.

The bank account was said to be part of the evidence against the President contained in seven balikbayan boxes that the opposition was prevented from presenting in the short-lived committee hearing last week.

Cayetano said that when reporters had asked him on Friday about the German account, he had replied that all the evidence in the boxes concerned the President and her immediate family, prompting a demand for an apology from Mr. Arroyo.

Cayetano said the First Gentleman should look at his exposé not as a "vicious and malicious attack" but as an opportunity to answer and settle once and for all "what is on the minds of many Filipinos."

He clarified that he was not saying that the German and Jose Pidal accounts were the only accounts in the boxes.

"There may have been more. They have two choices: Either allow the boxes to be opened in the committee on justice, or sign the waiver for all accounts, both local and international."

The boxes had been offered to the justice committee but the latter had refused to open them, saying it would violate impeachment rules.

"It is resorting to trial by publicity against the President and her family," said Representatives Rodito Albano lll of Isabela, Eduardo Veloso of Leyte, Douglas Cagas of Davao del Sur and Monico Puentevella of Bacolod City in a joint statement.

They said that if Cayetano's exposé was an example of the evidence in the impeachment complainants' seven boxes, "then the contents rightfully belong in the San Mateo landfill."

Malacañang yesterday continued to take Cayetano to task and dare him to prove his allegations that the First Family owned a German bank account containing millions of dollars.

Presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio said Cayetano must prove his point or as the First Gentleman had dared him, "to raise and donate the amount he claims to be illegally possessed by the First Family to the people and be proven the biggest grandstander of Philippine politics."

"(Cayetano) is throwing the vilest propaganda against President Arroyo and the First Family just to bait his colleagues in Congress to open their so-called boxes of evidence," Claudio said in a text message.

But he said this "deceitful" demand by Cayetano would not amount to anything because the impeachment complaint against President Arroyo had been dismissed by the House justice committee last week and was expected to go the same way in the plenary vote tomorrow.

"Alan has to get hold of his senses," Claudio said. *With Christine O. Avendaño*

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CPAs can take US test on Marianas

FILIPINO ACCOUNTants need not go far if they want to get a license to practice their profession in the United States.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) has been designated as another venue where applicants may take the US-certified public accountant licensure examination, the Department of Labor and Employment announced yesterday.

The CNMI is a United States territory in the Western Pacific and is much closer to the Philippines than the US mainland. It consists of 14 islands, the biggest of which are Saipan, Rota and Tinian. Travel time between Manila and Saipan is about three hours.

The CNMI is the latest US territory allowed to administer the US CPA licensure exam, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Saipan reported to the DOLE. The other areas where the test is administered outside the US mainland are Guam and Hawaii. *Leila B. Salaverria*

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There is no question that effortlessly clear skin is most equated with youth. If we recall what our skin looked like years ago, we will most likely come up with a picture of skin that is clearer, softer and smoother. In a word, flawless.

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Numerous factors continually affect the skin as it matures, ranging from external ones (such as sun exposure and pollutants) to the natural aging process. Over time, as the skin is exposed to various elements, it may acquire blemishes. Dark spots, acne scars and other forms of pigmentation are examples of some imperfections the skin may experience as a result of aging.

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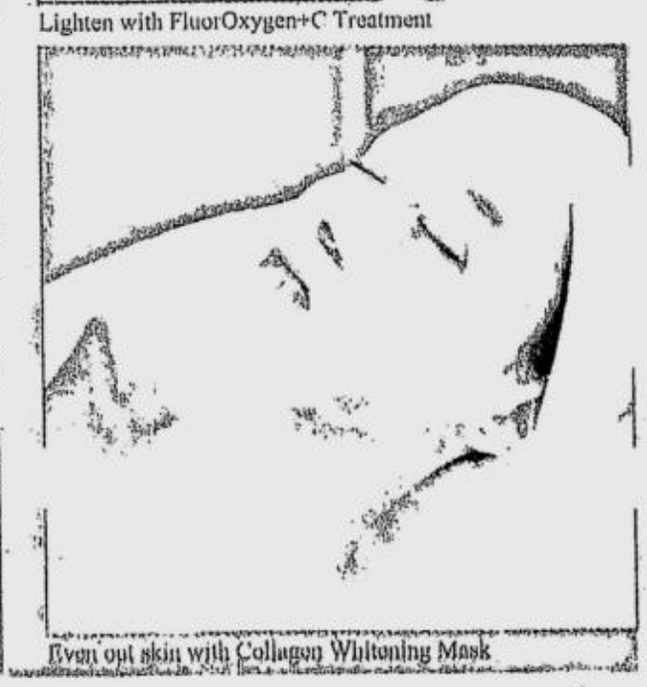

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Ex-SC justice heads probe of leftist slays

IN THE KNOW

'Consensus builder of the court'

RETIRED JUSTICE JOSE A. MELO, 74, was part of the Supreme Court from 1992 to 2002. He is described in the high court's website as "the consensus builder of the court," who is "respected for his objectivity, fairness, lucidity and openness to new ideas and contrary views."

Even after his retirement, the Supreme Court appointed Melo to be part of the committee formed to investigate the alleged leakage in the 2003 bar examinations.

Before his stint as associate justice of the high court, Melo had been associate justice of the Court of Appeals, commissioner of the Civil Service Commission, associate commissioner of the Professional Regulation Commission, solicitor at the Office of the Solicitor General, confidential assistant to the chair of the Presidential Anti-Graft Committee in the 1960s, and a member of the legal office of the Office of the President.

Melo obtained his law degree from the Manuel L. Quezon University in 1956, and passed the bar in the same year. In 1957, he joined the Diokno law office.

He received his Master of Laws degree in 1960 from the University of Santo Tomas, and became a law professor at the University of the East from 1962 to 1964. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

MELO

From page A1

tion of the commission on the eve of the 23rd anniversary of the martyrdom of Ninoy Aquino, as the nation commemorates his heroism and bravery. *(See stories on Page A1.)*

According to Ms Arroyo, Ninoy is "the most famous victim of political killings."

Ms Arroyo said the creation of the commission was evidence that her administration condemned political killings in the "harshest possible terms."

She cited the premise in her order that "the Philippines is a bastion of human rights," stressing that in her five and a half years in office, she had not sent a single convict to the death chamber. "More so, my determination to stop extrajudicial killings," she said.

'Powerful and credible'

Ms Arroyo said the Melo Commission would be "powerful, credible and fully independent, setting its own rules and timetable."

It will be equipped with all the powers and resources it needs to carry out its mandate under Sec. 37, Chapter 9, Book I of the Administrative Code of 1987.

Gregorio is best known as the successor of the high-profile activist Bishop Antonio Fortich in the Diocese of Bacolod in the early '90s.

Ms Arroyo stressed that the Church was represented in the commission inasmuch as it had been very concerned about the extrajudicial killings.

"I respect its concern," she said.

Death toll

Ms Arroyo has come under fire from local and international organizations, such as Amnesty International, for her alleged failure to put a stop to the extrajudicial killings of journalists and militants.

The Left counts over 700 such killings. The INQUIRER count is over 200 and that of the military and police, under 100.

Commission's powers

Under the presidential order, the Melo Commission's powers include calling on "any agency of the government" for assistance and deputizing the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the NBI, the Philippine National Police, the Department of Justice and "any other law enforcement agency."

It can also summon witnesses, administer oaths and "issue compulsory processes to produce documents, books, records and other such matters in the performance of its functions."

Aside from "prioritizing and focusing on the investigation of the unsolved killings," the commission is empowered to recommend the prosecution of suspects to the DOJ and regular prosecution agencies.

It will also make policy recommendations to the President, including "legislative proposals that aim to eradicate the root causes of extrajudicial killings."

An active golfer

Ms Arroyo said the commission would be "the only voice of government" on this issue; and that all other agencies would have to "clear their statements" with it.

At 74, Melo remains an active golfer, and "is not readily given to panicking and to finger-pointing," according to a former colleague.

Melo, who hails from Angeles City, began his government career in 1962 in the legal office of then President Diosdado Macapagal.

Nelia Gonzalez, former first vice president of the UP Alumni Association, is a former Zonta (Quezon City) chapter president and heads the Carmelite Foundation. She is involved in many advocacies, among them the welfare of street children. *With a report from Christine Avendaño and Inquirer Research*

PNP service program backed

INTERIOR SECRETARY RONALDO PUNO will support the ongoing integrated transformation program of the Philippine National Police designed to win back the people's trust in the police and to make the agency a premier law-enforcement organization.

Puno said he would do his best "to help [the PNP] get wider political and financial support from the local governments, as well as from domestic and foreign partners willing to strengthen our frontline service programs" to ensure the ITP's success.

"I would support the PNP leadership in the best way I can in making sure that your resources are adequate and in keeping your morale high," said Puno in a recent Camp Crame gathering. *Norman Bordadora*

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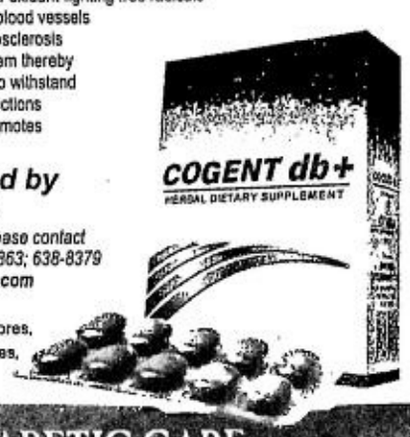

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It's still 'money talks' in kidney transplants

By Christian V. Esguerra

AN ARAB MAN SUFFERING FROM END-stage renal disease is in town, in desperate need of a new kidney.

At a Metro Manila hospital suite reserved for moneyed and foreign patients, he's confined for the customary work-up to determine if he's fit for the highly delicate operation.

Unlike local patients who generally have difficulty finding donors, the Arab's physiological readiness is the only thing he has to worry about.

By the time the work-up is completed in one to two weeks, a new kidney awaits him courtesy of a Filipino donor.

Strictly speaking, Health Undersecretary Jade del Mundo said Philippine hospitals are allowed to devote only 10 percent of their yearly kidney transplantations to foreign patients, per a Department of Health order.

In reality, though, the ratio is the other way around—foreigners get most of the operations, according to one doctor involved in the work-up of kidney patients.

"It just so happens that they have the money," the physician, who works for a Metro Manila hospital involved in the Philippine Medical Tourism Program (PMTP), admitted to the INQUIRER.

Easy to acquire

It's a reality galvanized more by economic conditions and not necessarily by a health care system intentionally accommodating foreigners to the detriment of local patients, he said.

A curious aspect, though, is the question of how foreigners manage to acquire new kidneys quite easily in a country that averages only 300 to 400 kidney transplantations every year.

The figures are way below the 8,000 to 9,000 new kidney cases recorded annually, Dr. Reynaldo Lesaca, head of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute's Disease Organ Donor Program, had told the INQUIRER in a previous interview.

Kidneys for less

At the NKTI, between 180 and 200 patients are on the waiting list for a kidney transplant, he said, noting that many of them were hindered by the high cost of the operation. A charity case usually costs P500,000 while a regular operation costs between P1 million and P1.5 million. A new kidney alone usually costs P150,000.

In an interview last Saturday, Del Mundo, the government's point man in the PMTP, admitted there were "backdoor transactions" in the procurement of kidneys for foreign patients.

He described the process involving Filipino "agents" on the condition the INQUIRER didn't give the details in this report. "Besides, we've already told them (agents) to stop," he said.

Whether they've actually stopped, of course, is another thing.

At one PMTP-accredited Quezon City hospital, the word is foreign patients could easily get new kidneys from unwitting Filipino donors through local "middlemen." A kidney, one doctor said, could be had for as low as P60,000.

"To the man on the street who doesn't know any better, the money is a fortune," he said.

In the long run

But the doctor was concerned that donors driven by the temporal rewards of money would eventually regret their decision.

He noted that donors—or kidney vendors—were usually jobless men who were also chain smokers and heavy drinkers.

"They don't know what they're giving up by selling a kidney," he said. "Today they may appear healthy, but that's only because they're young. Twenty to 30 years from now, their unhealthy lifestyle will take its toll and they'll regret their decision."

Smoking, in particular, is a major risk factor for hypertension, a common cause of kidney failure, he said.

The selling of kidneys is rampant around the Luneta, Bacood and Baseco areas in Manila, Addition Hills in Mandaluyong City and in Novaliches, bioethics expert Dr. Angeles Tan Alora revealed during the International Congress on Bioethics held at the University of Santo Tomas last year.

To avoid abuses and other violations, Del Mundo said each hospital has its own ethics committee which regularly reports directly to the DOH. Composed of representatives from the hospital management, consultants and the clergy, the committee's task is essentially to determine who deserves a new kidney and if the process of procurement is legitimate.

In terms of dealing with foreign and local patients, Del Mundo said at least two hospitals in Quezon City had been found to have violated the DOH order imposing a 10-percent limit on kidney transplants for foreigners.

None of them, however, were punished since the administrative order had "no penalty clause," he said.

"It's still weak really," he said, referring to the policy. "We still have to strengthen it and probably include fines."

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, August 21, 2006
20th Week in Ordinary Time
Pius X

1st Reading: Ezk 24:15-23
Gospel: Matthew 19:16-22

A young man approached him and asked, "Master, what good work must I do to receive eternal life?"

Jesus answered, "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Only one is Good. If you want to enter eternal life, keep the commandments."

The young man said, "Which commandments?"

Jesus replied, "Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself."

The young man said to him, "I have kept all these commandments, what is still lacking?"

Jesus answered, "If you wish to be perfect, go and sell all that you possess and give the money to the poor and you will become the owner of a treasure in heaven. Then come back and follow me."

On hearing this answer, the young man went away sad for he was a man of great wealth.

Commentary

Ezekiel is told not to mourn the death of his wife, the 'delight of his eyes.' This is what will happen to the sanctuary of the Lord and when it happens the people are not to mourn its loss aloud either—because they will rot on account of their sins and groan to one another. The Word of the Lord sounds desperate and is consumed with grief beyond express on us.

A man comes to ask Jesus what he has to do to have eternal life. Jesus told him to follow the commandments. The man says he does those already. Can we answer that? Then Jesus commanded him to sell his possessions (for he is a rich man) and give to the poor and then come and follow Jesus. But he will not. He is bound to what he has, rather than to Jesus. He goes away sad. Do we? And do we sadden the heart of God in our refusal to follow?

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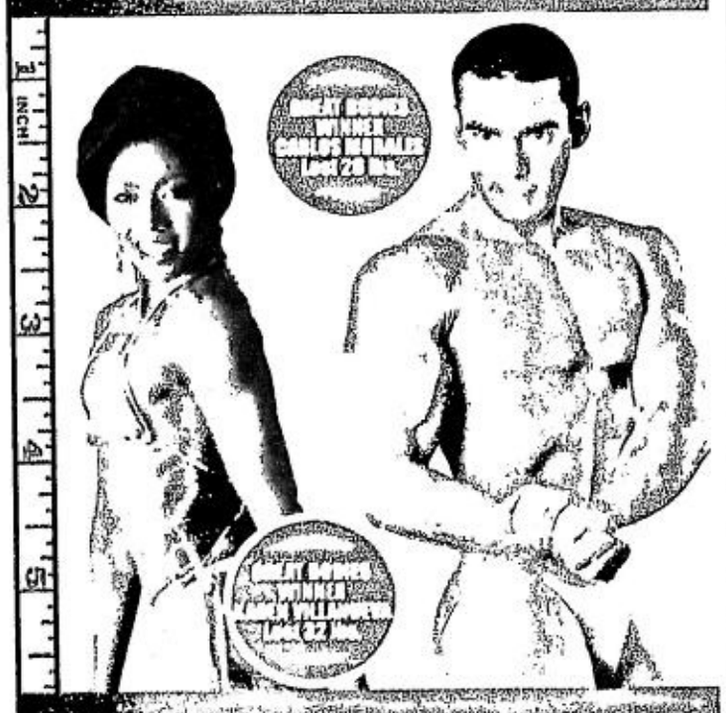

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'Fast talker' loved chop suey

From page A1

Wakamiya and cardiologist Dr. Rolando Solis.

"Aquino was in a white bush jacket and he talked fast. I was driving a brand-new Sapporo. I called him 'Sir,' and he said, 'Just call me brod.' So I called him 'brod'," Lucman said in a telephone interview from Marawi City recently.

As impromptu tour guide, Lucman said he gave his "brod" a taste of the finest Turkish and Mediterranean restaurants in Jeddah. But Aquino would have none of it. "He only wanted Chinese food," Lucman said with a laugh.

He said he was trying to focus on driving, but was also worried because they had no security. "What if Marcos had sent assassins? I was worrying over security when I heard something like an explosion," Lucman recalled.

FILIPINO workers welcome former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. (standing, sixth from left) at a Chinese restaurant in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in this photo taken in June 1981. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Short temper

He said he and his passengers were stunned and speechless for 10 seconds. "I thought it was an ambush," Lucman said.

Aquino was quick to react, according to Lucman. "He got out of the car and pulled out the other driver. He wanted to manhandle the other guy," Lucman said.

It turned out that their car had been struck in the rear by another car. The accident stirred a commotion because Aquino wanted to hit the other driver, who was a citizen of Saudi Arabia. "I was surprised at his temper. What if he got hurt?" Lucman said.

It turned out Aquino was just as worried about the damage to Lucman's new car. "He kept assuring me we would have it fixed. I was scared for him; imagine, what if he got injured?"

Now in his 50s, Lucman is the author of "A History of Armed Conflicts in Mindanao and East Asia" and "Salsila: Historical Perspectives on Malay Resistance in East Asia, Islam and Global Resource Wars." He is based in Marawi City.

The situation in the Philippines and martial rule under Marcos were recurring topics in the conversations between the senator and the older Lucman.

Fatalistic side

"Ninoy said that the only solution to our problem in the Philippines was a civil war. I thought it was the fatalistic side of him, that he felt very frustrated about the situation here," Lucman said.

On May 8, 1980, Marcos allowed Aquino to undergo a triple coronary bypass at the Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, on condition that he return to Manila and not speak ill of the Marcoses.

Aquino had been in prison for almost eight years. He had also been sentenced to die by musketry by a military tribunal.

But as soon as he was well enough, Aquino started giving interviews on the excesses of the Marcos regime.

The former senator also started meeting with Marcos' opponents, even making a side trip to Syria to meet with Nur Misuari, leader of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) who was also on exile in the Middle East.

Lucman said he first saw Aquino in 1968 when the opposition senator visited Lanao province.

He talked fast

He remembered seeing a man who "talked very fast, like ratatatat." In the '70s, Lucman was sent to Egypt for high school and college studies.

When they met again in Jeddah in 1981, Lucman said Ninoy still talked fast. "He could complete an issue—from identifying the problem, analysis and resolution—all in five minutes," he recalled.

The trip to Saudi Arabia was just one of the many trips Aquino made while he was in the US from May 8, 1980 to Aug. 13, 1983.

Lucman said his father and Aquino were always talking on the phone during those days. By early 1983, Aquino made it clear he was planning to return to the Philippines because Marcos was very sick.

When he flew home in August 1983, Aquino was using a passport with his picture on it but with the name "Marcial Bonifacio"—a reference to martial law and Fort Bonifacio, where he had been detained by Marcos.

Aquino had to use a different passport because the Marcos regime had warned that any airline with a Benigno Aquino Jr. among its passengers would be sanctioned and refused landing rights in Manila.

Prepared in Malaysia

That was also the reason a group of soldiers had to search the plane for a Senator Aquino because the manifest did not include the name of the returning senator.

The mysterious passport was actually "processed" in Malaysia through the connections of Lucman's father.

"It was a deep friendship, I think, that was what they had," the young Lucman described the ties between the opposition senator from Tarlac and the venerable Muslim congressman from Lanao.

He said his father also offered to escort Aquino on the homecoming. "But Ninoy declined the offer," Lucman said.

But the two politicians would meet in Singapore and even made a side trip to Malaysia before Aquino took his final flight to Manila.

According to Lucman, his father was left behind in Singapore to "wait for the good news" that "Marcial Bonifacio" had arrived in Manila.

Sultan was devastated

What he received, however, was the news that Aquino had indeed arrived in Manila, but that he was shot dead while going down the China Air Lines plane.

Lucman said the friendship between his father and Aquino stemmed from the friendship of Aquino's father, Assemblyman Benigno Aquino Sr., with his maternal grandfather, Sen. Alawiya Alonto, the first Muslim senator.

"My father was devastated. He started losing hope about the country ... I think he started preparing for his death," Lucman said.

Rashid Lucman died on July 21, 1984, exactly 11 months after Aquino's assassination on the tarmac of the Manila International Aiport, now known as the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Ninoy ...

From page A1

Doña Aurora Aquino, and her slain brother, former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr.

Now, she even keeps new company.

One of her classmates in Bible sessions is banker Edna Camcam, a longtime girlfriend of the late Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fabian Ver, who was suspected of involvement in the assassination of her brother 23 years ago today.

For the last three years, Aquino-Oreta has been a member of the Victory Christian Fellowship, a 20-year-old evangelical church based at the Global City in Fort Bonifacio, but she became active only after the 2004 presidential election.

She refused to call herself a born-again Christian—just a "renewed person"—but indeed, she said, she had been undergoing changes in her life.

Aquino-Oreta first apologized in January during a prayer meeting of about five born-again Christians, all members of the fellowship. She declined to talk about it at length, saying: "I am still not comfortable in making public my Christian walk."

On Saturday, the INQUIRER saw a different Aquino-Oreta. She freely talked about her relationship with God, the ministry and her life, past and present, particularly the Estrada impeachment episode.

Her seeking forgiveness, as well as her forgiving those who had also hurt her, was "the fruit of grace," coming as a result of her renewal, she said.

"You can't have (God's) blessing without forgiveness," she said.

"People who hurt me, especially friends I knew, I have forgiven them. I used to give them a stern look, and there was bitterness in my mouth. Now I could face them, shake their hands, and pray for them. I really do."

Forgiveness, she philosophized, begets forgiveness.

"So after God forgave me, I think it was also time to seek forgiveness [from others]. I might have offended so many people without my knowing it."

Apart from attending the ministry, Aquino-Oreta has been regularly going to a Bible reading and reflection session for more than 10 months at a home in Forbes Park, Makati.

Life on the run

Among her classmates, besides Camcam, is "jueteng" whistle-blower Sandra Cam.

After the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos was toppled during the Edsa I revolution, Ver and Camcam were on the run—from the United States to Europe to Asia—until Ver died of emphysema in Bangkok in November 1998.

Aquino-Oreta, Camcam and Cam and their colleagues spend two hours reading and reflecting on biblical passages every Thursday afternoon and, at times, for another hour before dinner in the Forbes Park home. They see each other again on Sundays at the Victory Church.

"The Bible sessions made us all calm and forgiving," Cam said in a separate interview.

"Like the rest of us, the senator and Edna talked about the past without rancor. That was unimaginable in the past. But here, we forgive and are forgiven. Once, they cried and held hands together while sharing their experiences," Cam said.

Aquino-Oreta reportedly cried because she had always been misunderstood. Camcam was in tears recalling how she and her children spent their lives on the run during the presidency of the senator's widow, Corazon Aquino.

Marcos' own widow, Imelda Marcos, joined the prayer group twice or thrice, another ministry member said, but the former first lady's tight schedule and medication prevented her from coming back.

Aquino-Oreta found nothing strange about the company she keeps—and vice versa.

Prayers for Imelda

Several years before her mother died in December 1998, she recalled that Doña Aurora, a very prayerful person like Cory Aquino, came home after attending Mass to say she prayed for only one person throughout the service, and that was Imelda Marcos.

She was shocked of course, Aquino-Oreta said.

"You prayed for someone who caused you pain, especially to your son Ninoy?"

Doña Aurora was said to have replied: "No, *hija*. She's in trouble for all those ill-gotten wealth cases. She was once up there. Even her close friends don't even talk to her now. We have to pray for her."

Now, she has come to understand her mother more than ever.

"Imagine what she went through. She lost her husband at a young age. She lost a dear son by a public murder," the former senator said.

Yet through it all, "Mama was a very strong woman—and it showed, especially at the height of Ninoy's assassination—because of prayers."

With the help of a newspaper editor, Aquino-Oreta is writing a book on her mother's life, possibly to be released on Doña Aurora's 97th birthday on March 6, as a tribute to her.

"Ninoy would not have been Ninoy if his mother were not Doña Aurora," she said.

Mother and son were so close that, in those times inside Ninoy's cell, they talked only about his life and later his spiritual renewal, Aquino-Oreta said.

Her mother's influence on the disposition of her son stayed with him until he was killed on the airport tarmac.

"God works on you when you're down and broken," Aquino-Oreta said.

"But you will not be whole, unless your are broken. Because when you are at your weakest, that is the time you will start looking for Him. God had a purpose for Ninoy as He has a purpose for all of us."

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THE LUCENA CITY government on the occasion of Quezon Day honored its most distinguished citizens. Cited for his achievements as an educator and historian was Dean Emeritus Cesar A. Villariba, Ed.D, of Enverga University (center). With him are (from left) search committee chair Antonio Acyatan, Mayor Ramon Y. Talaga Jr., Cesar Villariba Jr., Nene Villariba, events chair Carmen Marasigan and Dr. Ceres Villariba-Romano.

Mt. Everest conqueror leads honorees on Quezon Day

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.,
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—MT. EVEREST SUMMITEER Heracleo Oracion led the roster of outstanding Quezonians honored Friday on the 128th birth anniversary of former President Manuel L. Quezon.

Oracion, who hails from the town of Lucban at the foot of majestic Mt. Banahaw, is the first Filipino to reach the 29,028-foot (8,859 m) summit of Mt. Everest in Tibet. He did this on May 17, 2006.

Gov. Wilfrido Enverga led the floral offering while Bishop Emilio Marquez officiated at a Mass at the Quezon Monument at Perez Park here.

Quezon, the first president of the Philippines during the Commonwealth period and the Father of the Philippine Language, was born on Aug. 19, 1878, in the town of Baler in Tayabas, which became Quezon province.

Aside from Oracion, this year's "Medalya ng Karangalan" awardees cited for their achievements and service to the people of Quezon province were Ma. Lourdes Ilao, for information technology; Vicente Tantuco, trade and industry; Oscar Tan, community service; Potenciano Andaman, hospital administration; Abelardo Pajarillo, banking and finance; Evelyn Enejosa, education–guidance and counseling; Consuelo Custodio, education–school administration; Teofista Ojeda, rural medicine, and Medardo Pareja, cooperatives.

In Lucena, the city government honored its own 10 distinguished sons and daughters led by Dean Emeritus Cesar A. Villariba of Enverga University (See photo above).

Gabriela lawyer cited for work in women's rights

THE LAWYER OF THE PARTY-LIST GROUP Gabriela, Alnie G. Foja, leads the 17 high school and college graduates of Romblon State College to be given achievement awards by the school's alumni association.

Screening committee members Vicente Fiedacan and Alfredo Ylagan said Foja was being cited for her work in defense of women's rights and civil liberties.

Foja, valedictorian of high school Class 1991, obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of the Philippines and her law degree from the Ateneo de Manila University.

She represented Gabriela party-list Rep. Liza Maza when the latter was charged and then threatened with arrest as one of the Batasan 5 who were linked to the attempt to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo on Feb. 24.

Other awardees are Dr. Martin Morgado, Class '83, for public health (posthumous); Antonio Macalisang, '83, community journalism; Wilson Fortaleza, '85, protection of workers; Judge Cirile Foja, '87, law; Justice Pacifico Ll. Mayor, '59, political leadership;

Democrito Gadon, '57, government service; Dr. Idella G. Formilleza, '60, and Nestor Famatigan Sr., '48 (posthumous), education; Salvador Sulabo, '64, agricultural research; Evangeline C. Sulabo, '66, agricultural communications; Rev. Dr. Felipe S. Ferrez, '60, religious leadership;

Bicasio Fiedacan, '72, cooperatives development; Lina F. Hizon, '79, business; Fr. Herbert Fadriguela, '84, social work; Rep. Eduardo Firmalo, '66, medicine, and Ronald Fontamillas, '77, housing.

Alumni president Julius F. Fortuna said the awardees will be honored at an alumni fellowship on Aug. 26 at the Aberdeen Court in Quezon City.

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House cuts last strands to prove GMA legitimacy

From page A1

It can't be said that the House committee failed to follow legislative due process. In fact, it religiously observed all the formalities of procedures and House rules, demonstrating the majority's mastery of parliamentary niceties.

Hearings—or, more accurately, token hearings—were held. The committee chair, Rep. Simeon Datumanong, gave each of the proimpeachment and antiimpeachment sides to speak for two hours to argue their cases on the issue of sufficiency of substance. A battery of speakers from the opposition and administration sides spoke.

This procedure virtually set the committee to cut its teeth into the substance of the complaint, thereby allowing it to barely scratch the surface of the allegations comprising up to 50 pages, backed by seven boxes of evidence produced by the opposition.

Crucial moment

A crucial moment on how far the House committee would go to examine the evidence came when Rep. Roilo Golez moved for a vote on each of the 22 causes of action cited in the complaint.

Administration lawmakers opposed the motion, saying that a vote on each cause of action was premature because the task at hand was to determine whether the complaint had sufficient substance. They further argued that the hearing was not the venue for the introduction of evidence, preempting the task of the Senate as the impeachment tribunal.

Rep. Luis Villafuerte, for instance, argued that evidence could be presented only after the committee and the plenary had decided that the complaint was sufficient in form and substance. Administration allies said a vote on each case would delay the impeachment timetable and throw out of kilter the legislative agenda.

Finally, the inevitable happened. The House committee voted 47-18 to reject the motion. The numbers game decided the issue. The show of force was repeated on Wednesday when the committee voted 56-24 to dismiss the complaint.

The Arroyo administration demonstrated once again that its legislative muscle has not atrophied since the House dismissed the first impeachment complaint last year.

The House committee report goes to the plenary this week. The plenary is not expected to overturn the committee report. To expect otherwise is to ask for the moon.

For now, Ms Arroyo has survived another attempt to unseat her through a legal and constitutional process. Her allies used also a legal procedure to kill the attempt (the legislative machinery) based on the political power of the administration's grass-roots machine.

Once again, administration lawmakers have shut the door to an open public inquiry into opposition allegations, chiefly those concerning the alleged stealing of the 2004 election, that have undermined the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency and that have fueled the festering political crisis for the past two years.

Still in limbo

The House dismissal of the second impeachment complaint, however, still puts the President's legitimacy in limbo. It did not extinguish the legitimacy issue.

It has not enhanced the capacity of Ms Arroyo to govern effectively to accelerate economic growth. Nor has it helped her recover public trust and confidence and reverse the steep fall of her public approval ratings in the opinion polls.

The House committee vote merely proved that for the balance of her term, the President will have to shoulder through, without public consensus, with a strong arm provided by the legislative majority, the military and police.

One more, a legal venue for change has been blocked. Legal and constitutional options have been closed one after the other during the past two years.

Legal options have narrowed, leaving open extra-legal action, such as people power and coup détat.

Battle against time

There is an explanation for the summary dismissal of the impeachment complaints. The President and her allies are battling against time. They are walking on a narrow margin of safety.

They have to get the complaint out of the way now because a delay would tie them into legislative deadlocks which could paralyze the administration's legislative agenda.

The Arroyo administration has less than a year to get things done before the mid-term elections in May next year.

It has crucial stakes in the elections. The administration's control of Congress, especially the House, is on the line. This is critical to fend off future impeachment complaints.

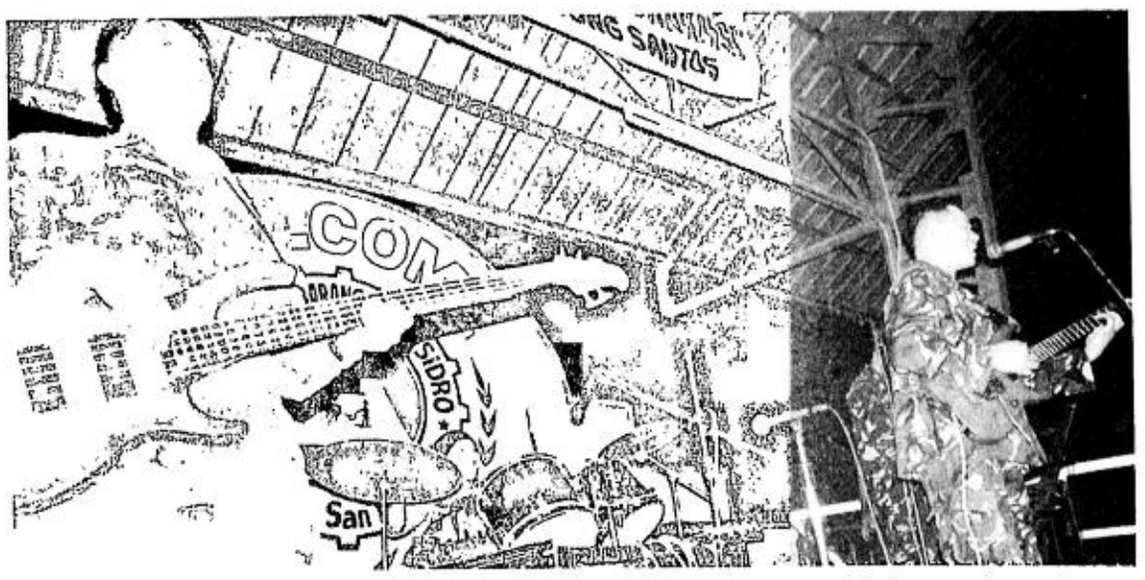
Balance may change

The balance of power in Congress could change after May 2007. In which case, the numbers game is not likely to work to the President's advantage.

On the other hand, the 2007 elections may provide Ms Arroyo an opportunity to regain legitimacy and wipe out the legitimacy stigma arising from the 2004 election.

The elections are regarded as a means for Ms Arroyo to receive a fresh mandate through smashing congressional victories. It's testing time on whether she will stay in power till 2010.

But it's hard to put a bet on this.



ARMY soldiers also use music and dance to win the hearts of villagers as part of their campaign against communist insurgents in Central Luzon. TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

Anti-Red tack: Soldiers . . .

From page A1

played drums, guitars and keyboards like rock stars.

Soldiers danced with women to music from pop hits to old ditties from the band courtesy of the Army.

The affair was called "socialization"—definitely not the type that has led to complaints of human rights abuses and sometimes killings brought against the Army.

"It's a way of building rapport with the people," said Col. Ricardo Visaya, commander of the 69th Infantry Battalion operating in Pampanga and Tarlac.

Like most of his men that night, Visaya came in a shirt and slacks.

Sexy dancers

Copycats of the "Sex Bomb Dancers" and "Viva Hot Babes" gyrated before the mostly male crowd, capping three production numbers with ersatz Las Vegas acts.

Bottles of beer, rum and cola and a roasted calf were served to some 500 village officials, residents and soldiers seated in huddles at the gymnasium of Barangay San Isidro here on Saturday night.

On the maroon curtain draping the stage, letter cutouts said that the event was part of an "anticommunist seminar/workshop."

All the mingling, the reaching-out and the merry-making told of a new, soft approach by the military.

Working since June on a stepped-up counterinsurgency campaign, the military has obviously gone beyond doing combat operations, intelligence gathering and civic missions.

Visaya said the troops knew the importance of being able to work with the same mass base as the "enemy" as they worked in urban areas to cripple, if not seize, the logistics and financial base of the New People's Army and its "legal fronts."

How soldiers project themselves to the people matters in the effort, he said.

Changing military image

"We're trying to change the image of the military. We're trying to erase their trauma from abusive soldiers during the martial law years," he said.

"Peace builders" and "development partners" have been their operative words, hammered at length by a battery of lecturers on the first day of the three-day seminar.

The speakers included former rebels who talked about the supposed ills and evils of the communist movement.

But how this tactic could easily discredit the movement's struggle appeared far off, according to sources in the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA.

In Central Luzon, the sources said, the movement played a big role in the ouster of the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship, the mothballing of the Bataan nuclear power plant, liberation from landlessness, campaigns for wage hikes, protection of tribal domains and resolution of crimes.

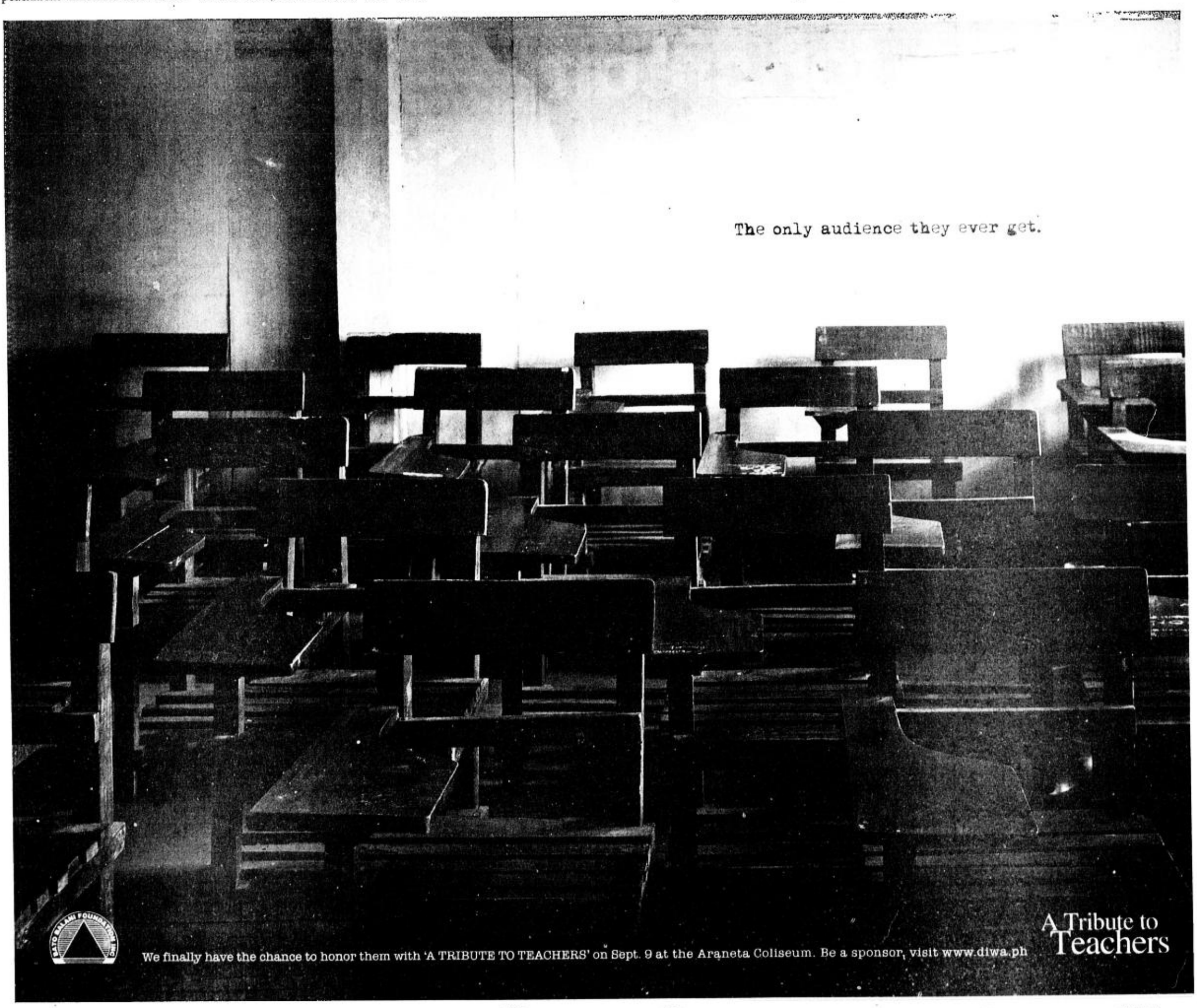
Rocking and rolling

As in other military-sponsored seminars in the region, this one ended with an anticommunist march at the provincial capitol here, the first to be staged in this former seat of the Socialist Party of the Philippines and hotbed of communism.

The rally, the climax of the seminar, ended with Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, exhorting the participants to cut their links and support for the rebels and their "legal fronts."

"[Communism] must end," Palparan said.

And what better way of ending it that Saturday night than on the dance floor with everyone rocking and rolling.



Manila hosts int'l photo forum

TWENTY-ONE PHOtojournalists from Asia and Europe are taking part in the Asia-Europe Forum for Young Photographers 2006 in Manila co-organized by the Asia-Europe Foundation, the World Press Photo Foundation and the Philippine Center for Photojournalism.

Magdalena Herrera, art director and head of photography for National Geographic Magazine (France), Hans-Jürgen Burkard, photographer for Stern and Geo Magazine (Germany), and veteran Filipino photojournalists Alex Baluyut and Romeo Gacad of Agence France Presse have been invited to share their experiences, techniques and concepts with the young photojournalists on Aug. 21-28.

Urban Youth

This year, Urban Youth will be the focus of the photo assignments in Metro Manila. The photo stories will be exhibited at the SM Mall of Asia beginning Aug. 27.

The forum aims to create a network of young photographers and provide a platform for discussion on the professional commonalities and differences evident in photojournalism.

Renewal

The forum this year marks the renewal of the partnership between the Asia-Europe Foundation and World Press Photo Foundation after the success of the forums in Amsterdam in 2003 and Hanoi in 2004.

The forum is sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (Philippines), the Japan Foundation-Manila Office, Asahi Shimbun (Japan), Royal Academy of Fine Arts (Hogeschool Gent-Belgium), Instituto Politecnico do Porto (Portugal), Konrad Adenauer Asian Center for Journalism at the Ateneo de Manila University, SM Mall of Asia, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Airborne Access, JT Photo World, Kodak Professional, Raw File Images and Columbia Sportswear. The Philippine Daily Inquirer is the media partner.

The participating photographers are Joachim Dewilde (Belgium); Rattana Vandy (Cambodia); Liu Ke (China); Mads Nissen (Denmark); Liis Treimann (Estonia); Donang Wahyu (Indonesia); Naoko Kawamura (Japan); Nasha Lee (Korea); Valdas Kopustas (Lithuania); Kamal Sellehuddin (Malaysia); Anaïs López (the Netherlands); Buck Harold Pago (Philippines); Ruel Bimuyag (Philippines); Honorata Karapuda (Poland); Gustavo Machado (Portugal); Lim Siao Lang (Singapore) Martin Kleibl (Slovakia); Elisa González (Spain); Siripong Kanjanabut (Thailand); James Barr (United Kingdom) and Hoang Minh Tri (Vietnam).

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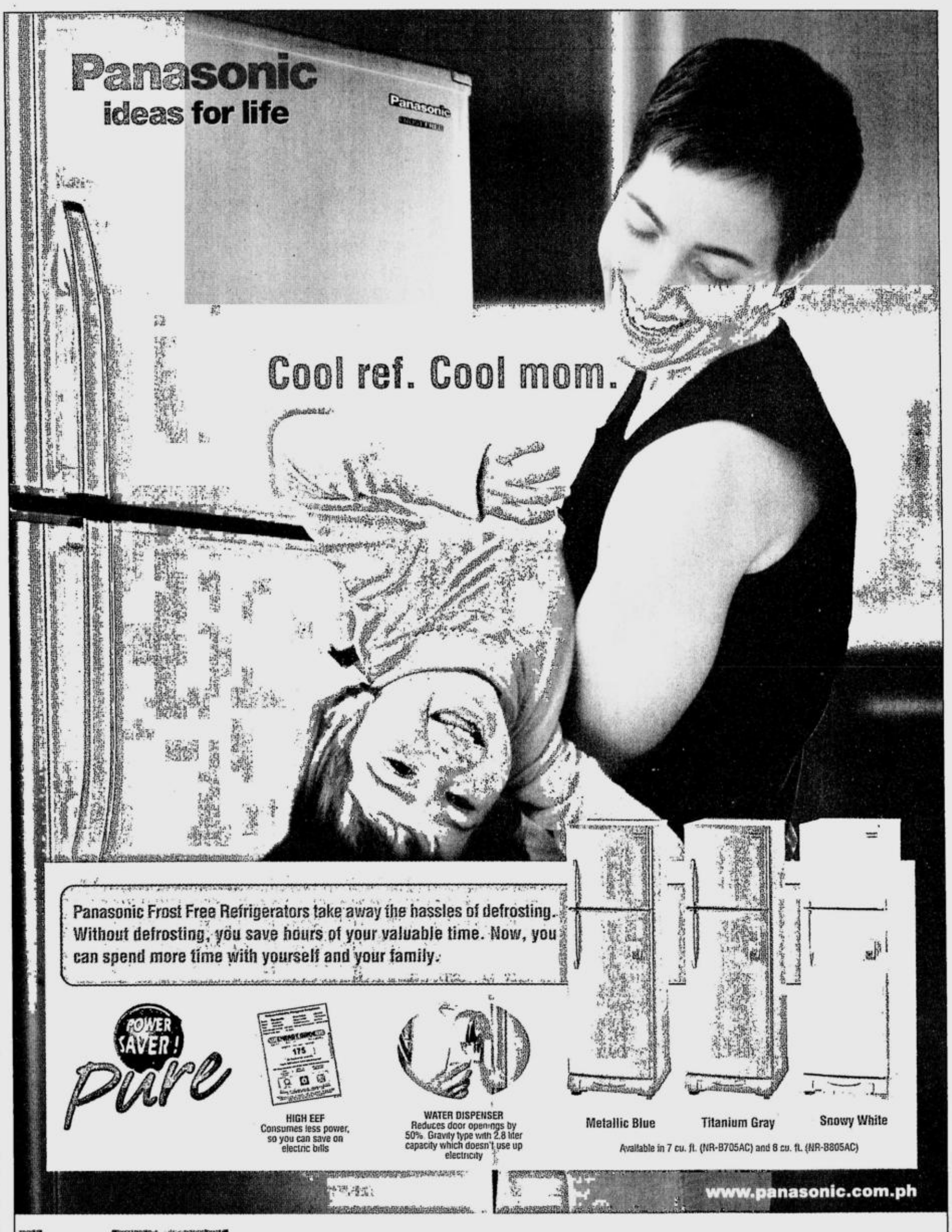

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Sylvia Reynoso Gala
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War vs 'jueteng' like fight vs Reds, say cops

By Luige A. del Puerto

FIGHTING "JUETENG" IS LIKE fighting communist the insurgency.

A year after the police cracked down on the illegal numbers game, its operation has not been completely licked, according to Philippine National Police spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao.

"The PNP has fought and is still fighting jueteng in a long-drawn out and protracted war," Pagdilao said yesterday in a statement.

He urged antijueteng advocates not to give up, adding that they were "not alone in this fight."

"The PNP has been in the thick of the fight long before their crusade started," Pagdilao said.

(Through the years, senior police officers had been repeatedly implicated in various inquiries but no one has gone to jail.)

"With everyone's cooperation, we will win this war [against jueteng]," he said.

PNP Director General Oscar Calderon ordered regional commanders in Luzon to explain the racket's reported resurgence.

He made the move after antijueteng advocates claimed that regional and provincial police chiefs have taken over running "jueteng" operations.

CALDERON

Apparently, allegations made by the Krusadang Bayan Laban sa 'Sugal, which counts Archbishop Oscar Cruz as one of its leaders, got the attention of the PNP leadership.

Relentless operations

In a memorandum, Calderon directed ground officers to "conduct relentless operations against jueteng... in order to stop this illegal activity once and for all, and at the soonest possible time."

"Regional directors, provincial directors and chiefs of police found to be negligent and not complying with this directive shall be henceforth relieved of their positions," his memorandum said.

Since Calderon assumed office last July 5, no officer has been sacked for allegedly tolerating or protecting gambling operations.

A senior official said the police chief "wanted to give his officers the chance to prove they're running after jueteng operations."

Calderon also told regional directors that the "one-two-three strike policy" was in place.

Under this system, a city or town police chief is automatically relieved of duty if another police unit, usually the anti-illegal gambling task force, successfully operates against jueteng in his or her territory.

If two police chiefs are sacked, the provincial director is automatically relieved of duty.

If three provincial chiefs are relieved of duty, the regional director gets the boot.

Command responsibility

"I hold regional directors directly responsible under the doctrine of command responsibility for the strict compliance of this directive," Calderon said.

Criminal Investigation and Detection Group head Director Jesus Verzosa was also told "to go after the heads [of jueteng operations], not just ordinary collectors," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

No officers involved

The anti-illegal gambling strike force is under the CIDG.

Former PNP chief Arturo Lomibao earlier created a strike force that relieved dozens of junior officers, including several provincial directors.

Metro Manila Police chief Director Reynaldo Varilla confirmed reports he had received when he was still head of the Directorate for Intelligence, that jueteng had not been completely licked but denied allegations that senior officers were involved in its operations.

As far as he knew, no police general was involved in jueteng operations, Varilla said.

Enrile: Senate to OK terror bill by September

By TJ Burgonio

SEN. JUAN PONCE ENRILE YESTERDAY expressed confidence the Senate would pass the controversial antiterror bill by September but could not say if Congress would be able to approve the measure in time for President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to the United States.

US President George W. Bush has stressed the importance of the Philippines in the global war against terror.

"We will wrap up the interpellation by the end of August," Enrile, sponsor of the bill, said in an interview on dzBB radio. "I have drafted the individual amendments. This is finished," he said when asked if the 23-man chamber could approve its version before the President leaves for the US before December.

The House of Representatives has approved its version of the bill. Differences would be threshed out by the two chambers.

Enrile said that he would ask colleagues who had been unable to interpellate him to submit written memos to avoid further delays. He said he would then call for a vote.

"I have 13 votes to enact this law. I want the people to know who is going to vote, and who is not so that if anything happens, they should be held responsible for it," he said. "Those who will vote against this, they will not get their pet bills passed as long as I'm in the Senate."

The antiterror measure, which sought to define terrorism by enumerating its elements, is among the priority measures of the chamber. It has been the subject of floor debates since it was sponsored on the floor in late May.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has said that the bill should not be passed until the rash of killings of leftist militants and journalists is stopped.

"He doesn't own the Senate. Why he is saying that? This will be put to a vote," Enrile said, reacting to Pimentel's statement.

Pimentel also said that the bill still needed refinements in many aspects, and had to define who was covered by it and what constituted a criminal act. It also should spell out safeguards against abuses, said Pimentel.

"The danger is great that under this paranoid government, even a good law would wind up an instrument of oppression," he said.

Enrile has proposed the creation of a special task force to carry out operations and special courts to handle cases of suspects and erring law enforcers in a bid to allay fears this would open the floodgates for the oppression of administration critics.

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Ombudsman calls for graft-busters in gov't agencies

By Norman Bordadora

OMBUDSMAN MERCEDITAS GUTIERREZ has asked all government agencies to assign a coordinator that would help her office prosecute graft and corruption cases.

Gutierrez issued a memo requiring all heads of departments, bureaus and agencies of the national and local government, including state-owned and -controlled corporations, universities and colleges to submit the name of their appointed coordinator.

The order was pursuant to Section 13, Article XI of the 1987 Constitution and Republic Act No. 6770 otherwise known as The Ombudsman Act of 1989.

The law states that the Ombudsman shall have the power to "request any government agency for assistance and information necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities, and to examine, if necessary, pertinent records and documents."

The Coordinator shall preferably be a senior official holding third level position, and shall act promptly and responsively on all requests from the Office of the Ombudsman for assistance and information needed by its officials/employees and/or the public," Gutierrez said.

The Coordinator is required to submit to the Onbudsman or her deputies a written report on the progress of requests pending before their offices on or before the fifth day of the succeeding month, stating the reason for the delay or failure to act on them within the prescribed 15 days from the date the request was received.

Majority of the requests for assistance received by the Office of the Ombudsman are addressed to the courts, the Department of Education, Government Service Insurance System, Social Security System, local government units, Department of Agrarian Reform Adjucation Board, National Labor Relations Commission, National Satistics Office, Public Attorneys Office, Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office.

210,000 Pinoys in US illegally

WASHINGTON—THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL immigrants living in the United States likely rose from 10.5 million in January 2005 to 11 million in January 2006, according to a report released this week by the Department of Homeland Security.

Of this, 210,000 were from the Philippines.

The figures were released as debate rages in the US over illegal immigration, a topic expected to feature prominently in the race for November's legislative elections.

The estimate—widely believed to be well below the real figure as undocumented people are likely to be among the least accurately counted—was based primarily on the difference between the number of residents born abroad, tracked by the US Census Bureau, and the number of legal immigrants, tracked by the Department of Homeland Security.

Based on the results of the census in 2000 and 2005, the number of illegal immigrants jumped from 8.5 million to 10.5 million—or 24 percent—in five years. At that same pace, the number of illegal immigrants would have hit 11 million by January 2006, the report noted.

The majority of the illegal immigrants—some six million people—hail from Mexico, while 470,000 come from El Salvador, 370,000 from Guatemala, 280,000 from India, 230,000 from China, 210,000 from South Korea, 210,000 from the Philippines, 180,000 from Honduras, 170,000 from Brazil and 160,000 from Vietnam.

In 2005, there were some 35.7 million immigrants—both legal and illegal—living in the United States, representing 12.4 percent of the population, according to US census figures. *AFP*

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ABOITIZ ONE, INC. will institute vigorous proceedings against any party involved in any of these unlawful activities or unauthorized use of its corporate name.

The public is hereby advised to verify all transactions with ABOITIZ ONE, INC. at telephone no. 892-1456 ensure their authenticity and validity.

Any person having any information concerning the aforesaid unlawful activities are advised to notify the counsel of ABOITIZ ONE, INC.

Date: August 7, 2006

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Black blob chokes livelihood of shell gatherers

From page A1

"What will we do now?" Gandecila, 53, asked while covering her face with a handkerchief.

Barangay Tando (pop. 1,000), in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, is a community of fisherfolk. It is one of the villages affected by the oil spill from the MT Solar I that sank 30 km southwest of Guimaras on Aug. 11.

The tanker was carrying some 2 million liters of bunker fuel, of which some 200,000 liters has been released to the sea, causing one of the biggest oil spills in the country.

Unless something is done to stop the oil from coming out of the sunken vessel, now lying some 3,000 feet below the surface, many coastal communities in Guimaras, Iloilo and Negros Occidental will be affected.

Flower garden smeared

The black blobs of oil reached Tando at 9 a.m., a day after the sea disaster, said Lorly Gabito, 40, who lives by the beach.

"I thought our kerosene container was knocked off because the smell was everywhere. Then the oil, brought by storm waves, started coming under and around our house. The oil smeared my flower garden at the back," she said.

Gabito said her husband had not set out to fish since then but had been hired to clean up the beach, earning at first P100 a day and later, P175. They also received food rations consisting of six kilos of rice and canned sardines.

But if Gabito had her way, her family would rather live by fishing.

It's an opinion shared by scores of women gathered at the plaza of Tando on Saturday, when politicians came with relief goods.

The women said they were all shellfish gleaners, earning for their families P30 to P100 after at least an hour of combing the mud flats of Tando.

A plastic container they call "Kaltek" (from Caltex, a brand of motor grease) fetches P10. They sell what they gather—*sikad-sikad, damisul and bacalan* shells—to their neighbors or at the markets in Nueva Valencia and Jordan, the capital town.

"Fishing depends on the weather and mercy of the sea. But we can gather shells for food because there's low tide," said Elsa Villanueva, 58.

School allowance

Eileen Abaòa, 12, said her earnings from gathering shellfish send her to school. But now, after a week after the oil spill, she had to ask for money from her parents, who complained that they did not have enough.

Nelrose Gandecila, fourth grader and an orphan, shared Abaòa's plight. Gandecila said she had had no school allowance since last week.

Renella Elejan, a barangay health worker, said that women in Tando were also hard-hit by the oil spill, but their needs had not figured in the disaster plan. It was the men who were thought to have been displaced after the provincial government banned fishing in affected areas, she said.

Medical checkup

Relief operations are in full swing and families have been receiving food aid, said Amparo Buncad, the municipal tourism officer. An information drive has also been undertaken to address health, environment and livelihood issues.

In addition, village residents were given medical checkups because they were complaining of coughs, headaches, skin rashes and asthma attacks—the possible effects of exposure to the bunker fuel that now litters their coastline.

Women in Tando have welcomed the rice rations and tins of sardines, corned beef and meat loaf even if they miss the stewed fish and shellfish soup, their usual diet. They suggested that the rations include *ginamos* (fermented shrimp) and dried fish.

Some fishers, tired of eating canned goods, went out to fish in areas they thought were not contaminated by the bunker oil, defying the ban on fishing imposed by the provincial government, according to Elejan.

Buncad said the municipal government had asked for the help of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to do fish sampling in the waters off Guimaras to determine which areas were safe for fishing.

FISH vendors, like this woman, are complaining of little income sirce provincial officials suspended fishing activities off Nueva Valencia town in Guimaras. ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Petron plans to suck out oil

From page A1

the tanker was bunker fuel oil, not bunker oil which is a lot thicker. "Bunker fuel oil is a lot thinner. But it is hazardous, nonetheless," he said.

The WWF-Philippines president said he learned of Petron's plans in a meeting at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which was attended by Petron and various government and nongovernment agencies involved in the cleanup of the oil spill.

The information was relayed by Myla Ong, an official of Petron, during the meeting, according to Tan.

Spill reaches Iloilo

As of yesterday, the oil spill had already hit Barangays Nipa and Pantigo in Concepcion town, Iloilo, and small portions of a huge oil slick almost two hectares wide was a kilometer from Barangay Pidada, Ajuy town, Barias said.

The oil spill has affected more than 20 coastal barangays in Guimaras, destroying marine sanctuaries and mangroves, and depriving fishermen of livelihood.

Guimaras Strait is a habitat of such endangered species as the dugong, the green sea turtle and the hawksbill turtle.

"There is no new evidence that the vessel is still leaking oil," Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said yesterday.

Reyes ordered DENR officers to coordinate with the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) to hasten the implementation of a requirement for vessels carrying hazardous material, such as oil, to be double-hulled and not just double-bottomed, like the Solar I.

Navigational routes

Reyes also said there would be coordination with the Department of Transportation and Communication on modifying navigational routes in relation to vessels such as oil tankers, to avoid areas rich in biodiversity, like Guimaras Strait.

"We are in constant coordination with Petron officials regarding the cleanup and determining the location of the vessel," Reyes said.

"All efforts should be done fast," he said, adding there was still the danger of the vessel breaking up and letting loose hundreds of thousands of liters of oil.

Aside from DENR undersecretaries and officials of the Environment Management Bureau, Reyes also met with Tan who briefed him on the situation.

Coast Guard observation

"The oil slick has already divided itself into several thin slicks," Reyes said. "There is also no new evidence that the vessel is still leaking oil."

But Philippine Coast Guard personnel have observed that some 200 liters of fuel per hour was coming from the site where the tanker had sunk, Lt. Commander Joseph Coyme, PCG spokesperson, said.

At this rate, the bunker fuel still in the hold of the Solar I could leak for over a year, he said. The environment watchdog Greenpeace earlier described the sunken tanker as a "ticking time bomb."

"It's really bad out there," Athena Ballesteros, climate and energy campaigner for Greenpeace International, said yesterday. "The extent of damage to such a wonderful part of the Philippines shocked us all."

Inaccurate

Tan said it was inaccurate to say that 100 to 200 liters of fuel an hour was being spewed out at the spill site because the site had not been located.

An aerial survey yesterday by WWF found that there was no fresh fuel coming up at the site where the Solar I was believed to have sunk, he said. However, the WWF team saw a fresh oil slick further south, according to the environmentalist.

Tan also said that the slick running parallel to Negros Occidental and as far as EB Magalona appeared to be breaking up and dispersing.

He said the Guimaras oil spill was not yet the country's worst spill because only 200,000 liters of oil had leaked out of the Solar I, a volume lower than the more than 300,000 liters spilled in the Semirara incident last December.

"The wreck itself is not a hazard. It is the oil inside that is the hazard. If Petron can pull it off, this very sad situation might actually be turned around rather dramatically," he said.

Tan said WWF-Philippines had yet to monitor oil reaching the Negros coastline.

"Contrary to the news, Coast Guard and (Regional Disaster Coordinating Council) statements, our photo team confirmed this morning (Sunday) that there was still no oil on the Negros shore or coastline," he said.

"The slicks, that have since gone through several days of dispersal, are only light films of fuel oil and can be seen several kilometers offshore, not on the coast," he said.

Aerial survey

An aerial survey conducted Saturday afternoon showed the oil slick parallel to Negros Occidental was 8 km from Bacolod City, 6 km from Talisay City and 3 km from EB Magalona, according to Barias.

Coast Guard data showed that the oil slick was moving at 0.8 km per hour or 19 km per day in the northeast direction, according to Vicfra Defante, Provincial Disaster Management Team head of Negros Occidental.

But Tan said the oil slick did not seem tobe spreading north and had, in fact, remainedin the same area for almost three days.

"There is no doubt that Guimaras Island i a calamity area, but coastal damage is confinedto Guimaras Island, its southern and southeastern coast and some offshore islands. Most of tis coastal damage happened last weekend," he sad.

"This is where cleanup and rehab must focus. Like the coast of Negros, the western coast of Guimaras has no oil damage, and the seas off the western Guimaras coast are, n fact, oil free," Tan added.

The WWF-Philippines is one of the environment groups helping the Philippine government, local government units and private stakeholdes in the area monitor and contain the oil slick.

After the WWF-Philippines' discussions with Petron officials, Tan said the firm had, for the short term, also committed to disperse and contain the existing slicks; actively support the coastal cleanup, and support scientific rehabilitation efforts for damaged coastal sites through institutions, like the University of the Philippines Visayas and Silliman University.

"Petron made a commitment to the WWF that it will see this all the way through," Tan said.

He said Petron officials had told him that they were just going through insurance-related procedures so that their insurance policy could cover a significant part of the expenses

"They need to first coordinate with their insurance firm before they can move on with the operations. Else, their insurance firm might say they can't cover the damage," Tan said.

The oil firm also expressed support for longer term initiatives, including a national review of shipping routes for oil and hazardous cargo and enhancement of national oil spill response capacity, he said. *With repors from Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas, and Leila B. Salaverria in Manila and AFP*

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Studes bake . . .

From page A1

said, was an attempt to produce an entry for the Guinness World Records.

"There is no existing record yet and so we would like to do it," said student Maria Jose.

It took more than a hundred students of hotel and restaurant management and tourism to prepare and bake the bread placed on a makeshift table around the campus.

The ingredients: 250 kilos of durian puree, 20 sacks of flour, two sacks of white sugar, 40 kilos of lard, 500 eggs, 150 cans of evaporated milk, two sacks of salt and 2.5 kilos of yeast.

"It's tasty and very good," Councilor April Dayap said.

Jose said portions of the bread would be donated to elementary school pupils in the city.

Challenge

It took the students nearly a month to plan the feat. Arjay Raborar, the leader of the HRM students, said they were "challenged" to do the project because it had never been done before.

Each was assigned a task, such as preparing the durian puree and the dough, the actual baking and the serving.

Raborar said the baking began on Friday morning and the bread was done by Saturday, just in time for the 2 p.m. display.

At first, the organizers intended to set up the display at the Rizal Park, but anticipating a large crowd because of the Kadayawan Festival in the city, they decided to hold it on campus for better crowd management.

The students invited several public officials to officially measure the bread. The officials' report will be sent to Guinness for evaluation Jose said.

Vice Mayor Luis Bonguyan, who was one of the judges, said having a Guinness record would make the city known to the world for its "unique fruit" of durian.

Councilor Pilar Braga said what the students did was "quite an accomplishment."

Amendments to 'archaic' Labor Code proposed

By Jerome Aning

THE LABOR CODE IS "OUTMODED AND ARchaic" and should be amended to be more responsive to the demands of labor, according to the Employers Confederation of the Philippines.

Speaking in a news conference Friday, Ecop president Rene Soriano proposed two amendments to the 32-year-old code, namely, the establishment of a work-based population management program and the protection of workers in the informal sector.

Alarmed by the negative effects of runaway population growth and the government's failure to arrest it because of opposition from religious and pro-life groups, Soriano said employers were mobilizing the business community to start a workplace population management program.

The program would dwell on family planning and responsible parenthood, the elimination of sexual harassment and discrimination, the awareness and prevention of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, and the promotion of breastfeeding by setting up milk stations for employed lactating mothers.

As stakeholders in population and development, employers and the business sector could make a significant impact on the population problem.

"The business sector is very much concerned about this development," Soriano said, noting that the absence of a comprehensive and sound national population management policy was straining the country's resources.

High population growth would result in larger families, while repeated pregnancies would lower the participation rate of women in the workplace, he said. "The net effect is the aggravation of poverty incidence."

Soriano also proposed the introduction of policy reforms to protect and benefit workers in the informal sector and to provide them access to employment in the formal sector.

The code, he said, was biased in favor of the formal sector.

The workers in the informal sector such as the self-employed, homeworkers and domestic and unpaid family helpers remained insecure in their employment, vulnerable to exploitation, and often trapped in poverty because they lacked protection and representation, Soriano said.

The code should not only contribute to the development of enterprises but should ensure their sustainability and competitiveness, he added.

Beetles seized in Palawan

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—PORT AUTHORITIES here have seized 939 live beetles, known locally as *salagubang*, which had been stuffed in boxes filled with ice to calm them, after its shipper failed to produce a collection or shipping permit.

The shipment allegedly owned by a certain Armie Potestad was detected by the X-ray machine at the port terminal.

For a week before the shipment was seized, a nongovernment organization called the Filipino Alliance Movement had been monitoring the movements of Potestad in Bataraza town, said Manuelito Ramos, chief of the Protected Areas Wildlife Sector or the City Environment and Natural Resources Office.

"The insect is not in the list of endangered species but Potestad will still face criminal and administrative liabilities under Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act," said Palawan Council for Sustainable Development information officer Alex Marcaida.

Potestad said the insects were bought for P40 apiece and were to be sold to a Japanese buyer in Manila for P1,500 per pair for the small ones and P5,000 per pair for the big ones which measured from two to three inches.

Potestad said she did not know what her Japanese buyers would do with the insects.

Authorities theorized the insects would be used for medicinal purposes. *Jofelle Tesorio, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Anti-Ninoy

EDITORIAL

IT IS TO THE CREDIT OF THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION that the initiative declaring the death anniversary of Ninoy Aquino a national holiday became law under its leadership. Nevertheless, the question begs to be asked: Is the Arroyo administration a faithful steward of Ninoy's legacy? For that matter, are today's opposition politicians faithful to the ideals Ninoy died for?

When Ninoy returned to the country 23 years ago, he was not only—in his own eyes and according to many—an agent of change. He himself was a changed man. The seven years and seven months he spent in solitary confinement, languishing in the dictator's jails, and the three years of exile he spent in the United States, after surviving an emergency heart bypass operation, did not only deepen his love of country; they also purified his ideal of service.

In the famous "Arrival Statement" he never got to read, he had written: "According to Gandhi, the **willing** sacrifice of the innocent is the most powerful answer to insolent tyranny that has yet been conceived by God and man."

His decision to return—despite the death sentence waiting for him, despite the dire warnings of assassination plots he had received from many sources, Imelda Marcos among them—was such a sacrifice. Without losing the peerless political qualities he was known for, Ninoy had become more potent than a politician; he had become a willing victim.

This terrifying idealism led him to his death and our liberation; of its many aspects, three in particular speak to us in our present circumstances.

Service above self. Ninoy did not have to risk a homecoming; he could have continued to work for the restoration of democracy from the United States. "I could have opted to seek political asylum in America, but I feel it is my duty, as it is the duty of every Filipino, to suffer with his people especially in time of crisis." The decision to forsake the deepest personal and family interests, for certain hardship and probable death, is a standard very few members of today's political class can live up to. In contrast, being out of power is a mere inconvenience.

Freedom above all. While fully conscious of the Marcos dictatorship's growing economic toll, Ninoy was above all a civil libertarian. He felt the loss of the freedoms guaranteed under the Bill of Rights the most keenly. "The Filipino asks for nothing more, but will surely accept nothing less, than all the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the 1935 Constitution—the most sacred legacies from the Founding Fathers." Today, we live under an even more liberal Constitution, but recent actions by the administration—the calibrated preemptive response policy, Executive Order 464, Proclamation 1017—have undermined those sacred legacies.

Life above death. Not least, Ninoy knew, from experience and extensive research, that an armed insurgency cannot be defeated through military means alone. He told a sub-committee of the US House of Representatives two months before he was assassinated: "It is true, one can fight fire with fire, but the late Ramon Magsaysay, one of the most revered presidents of our country, proved that it is more effective to fight fire with water. Communism may be defeated not by adopting the brutal methods of the enemy and thereby lose your moral imperative, but by reinforcing human rights." This is a clear lesson lost on the likes of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, who believe democracy's defense justifies the use of anti-democratic means.

Ninoy's legacy is many-layered, but we do not lack for anti-Ninoys, who pay lip service to his ideals while in the very act of betrayal. They are in positions of power or influence: a Cabinet secretary who says it is all right for board examinees to receive leaked answers as long as they did not solicit them; an election lawyer who argues that the truth of new fraud allegations is immaterial because legal remedies have already been exhausted; an Army general who seeks to justify the deaths of hundreds of leftist activists by pointing to those slain by the communist insurgents themselves. Their number, truly, is legion.

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Petron still using banned single-hulled tankers

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE OIL SLICK OFF GUIMARAS ISLAND IS still spreading and the Philippines has sent out an SOS to other countries to help not only in limiting the spreading pollution but also to salvage the sunken oil tanker or suck out the remaining oil in its tanks before it spills out. The sunken MT Solar I was carrying 2 million liters of bunker oil, of which some 200,000 to 300,000 liters have already leaked out to the sea and are now polluting 200 kilometers of coastline. That leaves at least 1.7 million more liters of oil still in the tanker's holds. If all that spills out, imagine the damage that it can do.

The tanker is lying off Guimaras 3,000 feet underwater and local salvage teams do not have the equipment and capability to reach such depths. Every second the vessel is leaking more oil. At any moment, the other tanks may burst and spill their contents because of the extreme pressure at that depth. Solar I is a ticking time bomb.

Salvage operations are going to be a long, difficult—and very expensive—job. Cleaning up the beaches, mangrove swamps and coral reefs would take even longer and more money—not to mention the lost livelihood of thousands of fishermen. Who is going to pay for all that?

I think it should be Petron, the owner of the spilled oil, and Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., the owner of the sunken tanker. The two corporations are especially negligent and irresponsible in transporting oil. The 298-ton Solar I was carrying Petron oil from Limay, Bataan for delivery to the Western Mindanao Power Corp. in Zamboanga del Sur. But for the transport of such a dangerous cargo, they engaged the services of a single-hulled vessel, the use of which is already prohibited by the International Maritime Organization under the 1987 Marpol Convention.

The convention, of which the Philippines is a signatory, mandates that all ocean-going, inter-island tankers be double-hulled to minimize the leakage of liquid cargo in the event of accidents.

But Petron and Sunshine Maritime still use single-hulled tankers in transporting oil because they are cheaper. This is not the first time that a Petron tanker spilled oil in the sea.

Last year, another Petron tanker spilled oil off Semirara island, destroying hundreds of hectares of mangrove forests and killing marine life. The tanker was also single-hulled. Petron should have learned a lesson from the Semirara oil spill which was the biggest spill until the Guimaras spill outdid it.

Why does Petron continue to use single-hulled tankers? Sources say that Petron's primary consideration in choosing tankers is the lowest bid, never mind if the lowest bidder has tankers that are rusty, rickety and do not conform to the standards set by the Marpol Convention.

This is ironic because Petron is majority-owned by the Philippine government and government officials sit on its board of directors. It should be the first to protect our environment. And it is not as if Petron is losing money or selling its products at a discount to justify scrimping on transportation costs and gamble with the environment. Petron is the biggest petroleum refinery in the Philippines and has the biggest share of the market.

In the first half of 2006, Petron reported a 25 percent, year-on-year improvement in sales, racking up P108.5 billion on strong export sales and favorable international prices. Although Petron's domestic sales for the period declined by 9 percent at 20.9 million barrels, this was offset by a whopping 140 percent jump in exports at 5.6 million barrels.

If it is doing so well financially, why does it insist on using outdated oil tankers in transporting oil to the Visayas and Mindanao? I think the answer lies in the successful lobbying of the Philippine Petroleum Sea Transport Association (Philpesta).

Even while Solar I was leaking its oil cargo off Guimaras, two personalities who may be responsible for the worst oil spill in Philippine history were seen meeting. They were a representative of Philpesta and a representative of Petron. Sources say the Philpesta man was pressuring Petron to continue patronizing single-hulled tankers on behalf of Philpesta members. Not that the Petron man needed much convincing as borne out by the fact that it still hired a single-hulled tanker after the disastrous oil spill off Semirara last year.

That Semirara oil spill should have already convinced Petron that it cannot scrimp on transportation costs just to increase profits. As it is turning out now, Petron's scrimping will come out more expensive in the long run. After the Semirara and now the Guimaras disasters, will Petron continue to put off the long-overdue, mandatory use of double-hulled vessels in transporting oil?

Petron has always had the option to hire double-hulled tankers. However, despite big profits, it has been hard-headed in using single-hulled vessels. In past biddings for Petron's transport needs, the operators of single-hulled tankers always won because newer, double-hulled tankers come at a premium price. But the lesson that we have learned from the Solar I spill is that the lowest bid is not always the best when it comes to tankers.

What Petron has been doing is to play Russian roulette with the Philippine environment, and with the lives and livelihood of Filipinos now and in future generations more.

It will take years to clean up the Guimaras oil spill; its bad effects on the environment can never be completely neutralized. This bleak future should be drilled into the heads of Philpesta and Petron's bigwigs.

The usurper did it

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'M GLAD THE FOLK OF OTHER COUNTRIES are still alive. By that, I don't just mean that they are alive physically, though in these times of murder and mayhem that means a great deal already. I mean that they are alive in the sense that they can still see, hear, smell, taste and feel. That is something the folk of this country no longer seem able to do. Jovito Palparan says openly that anybody seen in the company of a suspected NPA can and will be shot to death along with him, and Filipinos no longer fill the air with angry shouts at that obscenity. There is only one thing worse than being dead. That is being dead while still being alive.

I'm glad the folk of other countries are still alive while being alive and have risen to damn it. "No one," thunders Amnesty International, whose credentials for saying these things have been earned the hard way during the time of butterflies and dictators, "deserves to die for their political affiliation. It should be a deep embarrassment to the government that people in the Philippines cannot freely exercise their rights of political expression and association."

The Uniting Church in Australia, the Methodist Church in America, and church leaders representing denominations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe and North America have also railed at the killings in angrier language. The Methodists have called on the US government "to bring pressure to bear upon Philippine authorities to respect civil liberties and human rights," while the church leaders have expressed "shock and dismay" especially over the killing of church workers "by death squads that seem connected to powerful economic, military and political interests in the country."

We're back to the times of the butterflies and dictators when death squads roamed the earth freely and murdered people with impunity. With one difference: The death squads in the past did their jobs clandestinely and existed as shadowy paramilitary elements and vigilantes. Today's death squads do their jobs openly and exist as legal entities, called the military and police. I really hope the presumptuous general Palparan, and his boss GMA, the presuming President, will one day be delivered to The Hague to answer for their crimes. One is tempted to say that they are war criminals, except that there is no war in this country other than that of their own cynical and murderous invention. They are just plain criminals, of an order that violates—no, insults—humanity.

The fools who constitute the majority of the House of Representatives, who blocked the impeachment bid against their favorite tyrant would say to a man and woman that there was nothing to connect their favorite tyrant to the killings. Well, there is still something worse than being dead while being alive, and that is being a congressman who has sold his soul to GMA. There is no worse state than this—and if they themselves cannot feel the misery of it, it is only because there is no feeling left in their bodies, or souls. Some day too they will reap the whirlwind in terms of the contempt of their countrymen, the infamy to hound their names and houses till kingdom come.

Nothing to connect GMA to the killings? You have to have lost all sense of sight, hearing, smell, taste and feeling to mouth that. At the very least, what is government there for? There's nothing more ludicrous—the kind that kills when you laugh—than GMA cajoling the witnesses in the killings to come out so she might stop the mayhem. And what, unless the witnesses materialize—something she herself has discouraged by stopping witnesses against her from appearing before the Senate—she is freed from the duty, the responsibility, the imperative, to stop the mayhem? And what, so that the witnesses, who will then have implicated themselves as being in the company of suspected NPA members, will become target practice for Palparan?

We pay taxes so that government will serve us. The least of the service being for it to keep us alive, not to kill us. There's nothing more ludicrous as well than Eduardo Ermita saying, "But what about the killings by the NPA?" Well, what about them? The human rights groups have condemned those killings as well. I know I have, repeatedly. More to the point, we do not pay taxes to the NPA, we pay taxes to the government. We do not owe allegiance to the NPA, we owe allegiance to the government. You want us to apply the same rules to the NPA as to government, let us pay taxes to the NPA, and let us owe allegiance to the NPA.

While at that, the NPA "killing fields" is a case of the NPA slaughtering its own comrades. The day Palparan slaughters his own comrades is the day I will praise him to high heavens. The day he slaughters himself is the day I will ask for his sainthood.

But GMA's crime isn't just one of omission or ineptitude, it's one of commission or direct authorship. The only thing worse than the scale of the current mayhem—which surpasses even that of martial law: then there was at least a distinction, however often blurred, between combatant and non-combatant; today even NGOs and party lists are combatants—is the ease with which Palparan is able to justify it. He openly advocates the murder of the "enemy," that category being what and how his diseased mind decrees it, and his boss does not reprimand him, his boss praises him before the nation, before the world, before heaven and earth, for a job well done. This is not sporadic or intermittent bloodletting, this is systematic and calculated bloodbath. This is not accident, this is policy. This is not violence most regrettable, this is murder most foul.

And pray, what, the butler did it?

Not so, Mr. Speaker. The usurper did it.

Who is winning the war?

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

I AM NOT REFERRING TO THE ISRAELI-Hezbollah conflict. I am referring to the continuing skirmishes between the Palace and the Senate.

We can start with the detention of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales for his refusal to answer questions during a legislative investigation. Gonzales, obviously with the support of the Palace, stood his ground and was eventually released for health reasons. Or was it that the Senate blinked?

Historically, the Senate had been very firm when the person under investigation and detention did not have the protection of the Palace. That was the case of Jean Arnault, a French national, who was confined in the New Bilibid Prisons for his refusal to answer questions. Arnault went to the Supreme Court on a habeas corpus petition. That was the first time in the history of the Philippines that the Court was asked to resolve such an issue. The Court's decision established the rule that "If the subject of investigation before the committee is within the range of legitimate legislative inquiry and the proposed testimony of the witness called relates to that subject, obedience to its process may be enforced by the committee by imprisonment."

The eventual release of Gonzales, coupled with the absence of effort on the part of the Senate to call him back, seems to have emboldened the Palace. Thus was issued Executive Order 464 which decreed in Sec. 3 that "All public officials enumerated in Sec. 2(b) hereof shall secure prior consent of the President prior to appearing before either House of Congress to ensure the observance of the principle of separation of powers, adherence to the rule on executive privilege and respect for the rights of public officials appearing in inquiries in aid of legislation." Sec. 2(b) included a list which ended with "Such other officers as may be determined by the President." It was thus a comprehensive gag rule.

The Senate went to Court and won the case. After a careful analysis of the provision, the Court concluded: "In fine, Sec. 3 and Sec. 2(b) of EO 464 must be invalidated."

The interesting part, however, is what has been happening after that. Executive officers continue selectively to snub calls from the Senate. True, the Supreme Court decision also ruled that the President and officers authorized by her may claim "executive privilege." But the Court also said that for such claim to be valid, the nature of the privilege being claimed must be articulated. Executive officers, however, simply do not show up. What must the Senate do?

It seems to me that after the decision on EO 464, the Senate should already have the upper hand. The Senate should take measures to compel the appearance of the executive officers and demand that they explain the nature of the privilege they are claiming. If in the judgment of the Senate the claim of privilege is improper, then the Senate would have the power under the Constitution and the Arnault rule to detain the officers. In such a situation, it is for the detained officers and for the Palace to go to the Supreme Court and challenge the action of the Senate.

But what is happening instead? The Senate now wants to go to the high court to ask for a clarification of its decision on EO 464. I agree with Sen. Aquilino Pimentel—going to Court at this stage can amount to a surrender of Senate prerogative.

How would the recent decision on the petition of Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani affect the power of the Senate? At this stage of the Gudani case, the power of the Senate should not be involved yet. In this case, the Court was careful to pinpoint the issue. Gudani, after all, had appeared before the Senate but was not being held to answer for disobedience to EO 464. Rather, the issue was whether the military system, with its long tradition of discipline, should be prevented from subjecting Gudani to court martial proceedings for having defied an order of the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. Neither was the guilt or innocence of Gudani an issue in the Supreme Court case. The issue of guilt or innocence will come up during the court martial proceedings, and it is there that Gudani can claim as his defense obedience to the summons of the Senate.

After having narrowed down the issue, however, the Court went on to say something about the power of the Senate, saying, "We have to consider the question: may the President prevent a member of the armed forces from testifying before a legislative inquiry?" The Court answered: "We hold that the President has constitutional authority to do so, by virtue of her power as Commander in Chief, and that as a consequence, a military officer who defies such injunction is liable under military justice."

Did that settle the matter? No, because the Court immediately added: "At the same time, we also hold that any chamber of Congress which seeks the appearance before it of a military officer against the consent of the President, has adequate remedies under law to compel such attendance. Any military official whom Congress summons to testify before it may be compelled to do so by the President. If the President is not so inclined, the President may be commanded by judicial order to compel the attendance of the military officer. Final judicial orders have the force of the law of the land which the President has the duty to faithfully execute."

Who is winning the war? My answer is: This story has not yet ended.

Ninoy on my mind

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

I STILL RECALL VIVIDLY WHERE I WAS AT noon of Aug. 21, 1983. What I do not remember was why I was in school that day, a Sunday. But I do know that someone broke the news to me and my classmates. When I hurried home soon after that, the news of Ninoy Aquino's assassination was the first thing my family told me about. It is easy to say that the rest is history, for indeed it is—but I can still clearly remember the days of pall and gloom that followed that fateful day of Ninoy's assassination.

I am recalling all this, not from Manila (the center of the national outrage that swept the nation in the aftermath of Ninoy's murder) but from the Mindanao of my homeland. I lived through Ninoy's assassination not in the capital of the Republic (that thinks of itself as the hub and all the rest of us in its periphery). But there we were, being pulled into the eddy of events happening in Manila. For that one brief defining moment, we were not in the margins. We, too, in Mindanao found ourselves in the center, swept into it by the current of humanity weeping for Ninoy.

Even now, I still regard Aug. 21 of each year in private reverence. The only difference is that Aug. 21 nowadays feels like nothing but a simple past event, a part of our history. Some people still dream of Ninoy as a hero. I no longer do. He may have had his intrinsic worth as a hero and martyr. But I strongly feel that heroes are made not only by their own worth but by the women and men who keep their legacy alive. Ninoy once lived. But his heroism is no longer being lived.

The uprising that swept his widow to power would have had advanced the cult-hero status that Ninoy deserved. But it was the widow herself who set the stage for Ninoy's fall from our collective memory. Cory Aquino basks in her self-styled image as an icon of democracy. But this is the same Cory whose regime was responsible for the Mendiola Massacre that killed peasant leaders just a few meters away from the building that housed the exalted office with the power to redress their grievances. She stifled freedom and farmers' rights, an act for which she herself had loathed the Marcos regime. That was not democracy.

> Heroes won't find a pedestal of honor in a society that trashes integrity and credibility and makes demigods out of malevolent archetypes

My gratitude to Cory for keeping alive the people's clamor "Never again!" to Marcos and martial law faded when she reconciled her own machinations with those of Imee Marcos last year, at the height of public anger against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. There, in full view of a watchful public, were Cory and Imee unbelievably together, voicing the same call for civilians to surround military renegades in a cheap attempt to reenact a pseudo people power. Cory and Imee as bedfellows—what has this poor nation of ours gotten itself into?

Cory and the so-called "alternative politicians," who fought to regain our freedom from the Marcoses, have adopted the transactional political culture that has bedeviled our country, the same culture that has produced Ms Arroyo's ilk. They only have themselves to blame for the mess we are in. We continue to be ruled by a bunch of hypocrites. I do not think that Marcos and his cronies have left us. For what we have now in their places are his exact clones.

I had wished that Kris were not Ninoy's daughter. Kris is the epitome of everything that clashes with the hopes that Ninoy's death awakened in us. Her irrational vanity is simply a continuation of what we had rejected during Ninoy's funeral and then at Edsa in 1986. The pettiness and profligacy she childishly projects and with which she lures her *masa* fans are simply a prolongation of what we thought had ended with the fall and flight of the Marcoses.

Ask the post-Edsa babies of today who are now in their college years. Very few, if at all, know who Ninoy was. But everyone knows Kris. Thanks to her, Ninoy's march into oblivion has begun.

Today, we see Ninoy's pensive face on the P500-bill. But how can he be appreciated that way when that P500-bill is gone from one's hands in a matter of seconds amid high prices and poverty where the majority of our countrymen are now wallowing, no thanks to bad governance and corruption in high places?

Heroes cannot be misrepresented. On the other hand, heroes won't find a pedestal of honor in a society that trashes integrity and credibility and makes demigods out of malevolent archetypes.

Proclaim Ninoy a hero? No way. One cannot use him to legitimize treachery and selfishness.

* * *

Comments to monta@cu-cdo.edu.ph

Oblivious in Cloud Cuckoo-land

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

JUSTICE ISAGANI CRUZ SAYS IF HE HAD known what he now knows, he would not have written what he wrote, "out of respect for a fellow columnist." Justice Cruz's belated expression of consideration is an unrepentant insistence that his is only an expression of discontent.

His declaration went beyond a defense of sensibilities, and was a case of the law of unintended consequences in action. What the venerable Justice Cruz intended as a defense of good taste and morals has sparked a furious debate on whether he was tasteless and imprudent in what he asserted and in the words he chose, and on how his critics—including myself—have responded.

Justice Cruz quotes Oliver Wendell Holmes and Voltaire, who were great men. But like all people, great or ordinary, they were flawed. Justice Holmes was a magnificent thinker in every respect save one: his belief in, and defense from the bench, of eugenics. Eugenics was a pseudoscience that sought the improvement of populations by what could only be called selective breeding, including the forced sterilization of individuals with genetic defects.

In 1927, Justice Holmes penned the American Supreme Court's decision in the case of Buck vs. Bell. Carrie Buck had been committed to the Virginia State Colony for epileptics and the feebleminded. The superintendent wanted the teenage Buck sterilized (she had the mental age of a 9-year-old, he said), because Buck had a child out of wedlock (it later turned out she was raped by the nephew of her adoptive mother, who then committed her ward to the State of Virginia).

Only one justice dissented with Justice Holmes' decision on the case. The most famous passage of the decision includes, "It is better for all the world, if instead of waiting to execute degenerate offspring for crime, or to let them starve for their imbecility, society can prevent those who are manifestly unfit from continuing their kind. The principle that sustains compulsory vaccination is broad enough to cover cutting the Fallopian tubes .... Three generations of imbeciles are enough."

As for Voltaire, his colossal standing in the Age of Enlightenment cannot obscure his anti-Semitism. In his "Dictionnaire Philosophique," he said the Jews were "the most abominable people in the world," and that they were "an ignorant and barbarous people, who have long united the most sordid avarice with the most detestable superstition, and the most invincible hatred for every people by whom they are tolerated and enriched ... still, we ought not to burn them." How kind.

In their day, Holmes might have been seen as the personification of rational and modern thinking relative to public health; and Voltaire was admired for his brilliant mind and eloquence in defense of reason and liberty. Today, we know better than to equate vaccinations with forced sterilizations or to condone anti-Semitism.

As for Christian principles, I think it neither desirable nor reasonable to demand that people renounce their interpretation of their faith, in order to accommodate my contrary opinion. That would be to demand apostasy, an unconscionable thing. But it is highly reasonable, I believe—and even imperative—to insist that in a secular society, a community's faith shouldn't result in making the harassment, even the persecution, of others, justifiable.

But our differences are far more fundamental. He says he only dislikes "coarse homosexuals," and says we can agree to disagree as we might about, say, Picasso. He says he's only expressing his views and that it is an exaggeration—and obnoxious—to object.

Justice Cruz can take pride in the "macho," which is his culture, though he ignores the harsh reality that macho men tend to find the solution for what they dislike in the use of their fists, or baseball bats, or guns: for what is machismo without violence? It thrives on the kind of enforcement of society's norms he wistfully says would have been experienced decades ago by the kind of homosexuals he loathes.

And the past, present and potential targets of such corrective measures, those who he says represent a clear and present danger to God and country, are supposed to meekly accept his endorsement of such methods? He says there's a threat; he points to past solutions with nostalgia; what is the solution he proposes—or which might be proposed upon his inspiration?

Hence my strong objection to Justice Cruz's insisting on a distinction between acceptable and unacceptable gays. There is the danger that in less discerning hands—including those wielding closed fists, those who are eager to strike a blow for normality on the faces of those who flout convention—the distinction he attempts cannot be maintained. And that even if it were, it would only ensure temporary safety for some, not all; when in their heart of hearts, all gay people are fundamentally the same because of their sexuality. And that is why his distinction is unacceptable: it divides, so that he may rule. That leaves no room for toleration or cohabitation, much less mutual respect.

We may celebrate and even honor people like Holmes, Voltaire, Churchill (who defended freedom in Europe but also fiercely opposed independence for India) or Justice Cruz, but there comes a point for all of us where our own prejudices get the better of us; and it is up to those who are potentially placed in harm's way to object, as vigorously as possible, to prevent the law of unintended consequences from kicking in. Because taste is not an abstraction; its legitimate defense all too often legitimizes physical and mental suffering of the kind Justice Cruz will never have to experience or possibly comprehend.

Further affiant sayeth naught.

Ninoy's death, PDI and Edsa 1

COMMENTARY

Eugenia Duran Apostol

IT WAS A SUNDAY, SUNNY AND BRIGHT.

Word of mouth had it that Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. was arriving at noon via China Airlines at the Manila International Airport.

The most vocal critic of President Ferdinand Marcos whom the dictator incarcerated on Sept. 21, 1972—the day Marcos declared martial law—was returning home on that Aug. 21 from seven years of exile in the United States.

During his incarceration prior to his exile, Ninoy had gone on a 40-day hunger strike and developed a heart condition that could only be remedied with a heart bypass in the United States. He was allowed to fly there in 1977 with his family (including his wife Corazon Aquino). He stayed until 1983.

Upon learning that President Marcos had become very ill with lupus erythromatosis, Ninoy insisted on returning to Manila. His followers in Manila—led by Salvador Laurel—flocked to the airport to meet him at noon.

Although other media friends asked me to join them there, I opted to stay home for my regular Sunday lunch with my family.

But at around 1 p.m. I felt something in the air that made me call the Associated Press office at Roxas Boulevard. The excited voice of Norie Aureus, wife of David Briscoe, AP local chief, answered, saying there was trouble at the airport but they did not know exactly what and that they were shorthanded at the AP office.

I quickly dressed up and, in less than five minutes, I was at the AP office, offering to help. The first thing Briscoe asked me to do was to call Juan Ponce Enrile, Marcos' defense secretary. Enrile answered the phone himself and quickly told me that he was not sure what had happened and that he knew nothing.

The news filtered through that Ninoy had been shot and killed at the airport. I decided to go to the home of Ninoy's family in Quezon City, at Times Street. There, Doña Aurora Aquino—Ninoy's mother—confirmed the tragedy.

Doña Aurora knew me because all her female children studied in the same Holy Ghost College—her stepdaughter Mila Aquino-Albert was my high school classmate.

I asked to borrow family pictures on display at her home because I was already planning a magazine that would celebrate Ninoy's life. She accommodated my request.

Thousands attended the wake of Ninoy first held at the Quezon City residence—and later at the Sto. Domingo Church. Ten days later at his funeral, 2 million more accompanied him to his burial site at the Manila Memorial Park.

The Marcos-controlled newspapers devoted one paragraph to that funeral and I felt prompted to do a Mr. & Ms. Special supplement to report it. The 16-page supplement sold like hot cakes and the agents kept coming back for more than 500,000 copies.

Because of all the demonstrations, I felt called upon to document the feelings of the people and this led to the weekly Mr. & Ms. Special Edition, which I asked Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc to edit.

We not only monitored the protest rallies, we also produced stories about Marcos' abuse of power as well as the fabulous projects of his wife Imelda. We "conscienticized" the readers. We followed the investigation of the Agrava Board into the shooting of Ninoy.

And when the Agrava Board indicted Gen. Fabian Ver and 26 co-accused, we created a new weekly called Philippine Inquirer, just to follow up the Trial of the Century.

Of course, we knew that the trial would be a circus—definitely a white-wash—but we wanted to document it, to show how Marcos would protect his cousin, the AFP chief of staff, from the accusation of that terrible murder.

Week after week for nine months, we followed the trial in the weekly Philippine Inquirer. Of course, Ver was acquitted and I announced to the staff that the Philippine Inquirer had done its job and we were to close it.

But Marcos surprised us all by announcing a snap election. He was eager to show the world that the Filipinos wanted him to continue as President amid all the negative press he was getting from international media.

The snap election would give the opposition a chance to meet Marcos head-on. But what chance did it have without the support of the media? It had to be given a chance. Perhaps, the Philippine Inquirer weekly could become a daily, with only two months to work for clean elections.

So we formed a group separate from Mr. & Ms., bought the name Philippine Inquirer, organized it into a cooperative venture, and launched the Philippine Daily Inquirer on the day the election campaign officially started: Dec. 9, 1985.

Our Statement of Purpose found on the Vol. 1 No. 1 edition says, in part: "Our news section will restrict itself to recounting the facts. Our editorial and our opinion columns will dish out the honest opinions of those who write them and will be so identified and indicated. There will be a clear demarcation between news and views."

The number of copies began at 30,000 in December, doubled in January and tripled in February 1986.

At this time, Cory led a mammoth rally at Luneta. The rally was dubbed "Tagumpay ng Bayan." There, she declared a boycott of companies sympathetic to Marcos and his cronies. This was the prelude to Edsa I.

The rest is history.

Eugenia Duran Apostol is the board chair of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power. You may send e-mail to edapostol@fwwpp.org.

THEY SAID

Human carabaos

"It's a backbreaking job even for a strong carabao. But our men endure the hardship and the indignity. They need money to buy salt, soap and other basic household items."

—An Agta tribesman, confirming that members of his tribe are being used like "human carabaos" to haul illegally acquired logs out of the Sierra Madre jungles

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Still, Filipinos worth dying for

ON THE 21ST DAY OF AUGUST, 23 years ago, Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. voluntarily returned from exile to join the Filipino people's struggle to restore truth, freedom and democracy in our land.

Ninoy chose to go home despite the danger of death that awaited him. He could have chosen to seek political asylum abroad. But Ninoy felt it was his duty as a Filipino to suffer with his people especially in a time of crisis.

At that time, Ninoy lamented the growing political turmoil, senseless political killings and deepening economic problems that hounded our country. More than two decades have passed since Ninoy's death and yet we continue to face the same problems—except, perhaps, that the problems have become even worse now.

Ninoy returned from exile and an uncertain future with only faith to offer—faith in our people and faith in God. Ninoy believed in the ability of Filipinos, when united, to overcome the toughest problems. More than courage and patriotism, Ninoy showed us there is hope in the Filipino.

Despite our mounting problems today, we Filipinos continue to wear a smile and keep our heads up. By nature, the Filipino is resilient and patient. Our innate creativity, resourcefulness, perseverance, skills and talents are reasons for us to be proud and optimistic of our nation and our future.

Let us not allow divisiveness to cause the death of our nation in the desert of hopelessness. Let us strengthen our resolve to work together for a better life and a better future. With God as our guide, let us work to renew our faith in ourselves. Let us show our leaders that we can be united and in turn inspire them to act together and make significant changes in our democratic processes and institutions.

After all, the Filipino is worth dying for.

—TESSIE AQUINO-ORETA

Reds proved themselves barbarous in Bicol attack

"COMMUNISM MEANS BARBARISM" (James Russell Lowell, American poet, 1819-1891). This has reference to the headline of the Aug. 10 issue of the INQUIRER, regarding the treacherous attack initiated by the New People's Army on government troops who were conducting relief operations in Daraga, Albay.

Contrary to the claims of Rep. Satur Ocampo, it seems that nothing has changed in the Communist Party of the Philippines. It is still the same organization that has committed brutality and treachery not only against the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines but also against its own comrades, like the ones we saw during the CPP anti-infiltration campaigns in the 1980s, which were code-named Oplan "Ahos," "Kadena de Amor," "Missing Link" and "Zombie."

Soldiers of the 901st Infantry Brigade were conducting relief operations in Albay and those wounded were not even combatants; they were repacking relief goods for thousands of evacuees from the slopes of Mayon Volcano. The communists are no different to the death squads that, according to Ocampo and his bunch of Left-leaning associates in Congress, are "responsible for the deaths of leftists and journalists throughout the country."

With the treacherous and barbaric ways of the NPA, plus the violent purges hounding its history, it wouldn't be a surprise if one day we'd find out that it is its "comrades" behind the series of killings now being attributed to Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan.

—OLAN RODOLFO,
Sampaloc, Manila

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Missing or absent House members?

THE INQUIRER HIT THE NAIL right on the head with its Aug. 9 editorial, titled "Gagged." Our "honorable" members of Congress, who profess themselves as "public servants," cower in fear before an independent newspaper like the INQUIRER.

They know that the INQUIRER and the national television channels serve as the citizens' eyes and ears and watch how politicians conduct themselves in public office. They also know that through the media, people have become aware that out of the 14 elected representatives of the Bicol Region, only three are active—Luis Villafuerte of Camarines Sur, Edcel Lagman of Albay and Francis "Chiz" Escudero of Sorsogon.

The first two are obviously avid fans of President Macapagal-Arroyo, while the third is a young "Raul Roco" in the making. Where are the rest of our lawmakers?

—ELMER JAMES BANDOL,
Purok 5, Binitayan,
Daraga, Albay

No personal interest in Poro Point

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO REACT to Neal Cruz's column, titled "Smoking guns at Poro Point" (PDI, 8/18/06), where he alleged that President Macapagal-Arroyo looked for me during the Cabinet meeting that was held to discuss the issues relative to the legality of the Poro Point contract which was signed in 1999.

As former chair of the Regional Development Council and presidential adviser for Northern Luzon, I called the attention of President Arroyo to the issues raised by government and private sector stakeholders against Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC).

I actually presented three issues for the President to act upon. First, the claim of some sectors that the contract was grossly disadvantageous to the government because of a provision which bound PPIC to pay an annual revenue of P50 million when the port was already earning more than P50 million a month.

Secondly, the contract also provided that the private investors behind PPIC, the couple Mr. and Ms Manny Tan, invest P840 million for the development of the Poro Point Free Port and Economic Zone. However, no development project has been undertaken by PPIC from 1999 up to the present. Tan is a known big-time rice and fertilizer dealer, and he engages in all kinds of trading in the country. He is allegedly using the port as an unfair advantage over other businessmen in the same line of business.

Finally, the free port was turned over to Tan under the administration of former President Estrada, without the usual public bidding, contrary to law. I suggested that an investigation be conducted to determine who in the BCDA are the protectors of PPIC, if any, and why PPIC is being allowed to continue its operations despite the apparent flaws in the contract.

To address these issues, President Arroyo called a joint meeting of the Cabinet and Neda officials on Jan. 24, 2006. However, I did not attend the meeting because I felt that I had already performed my duty of informing the President about the issues. I left it for the Cabinet to decide on what course of action to take as regards Poro Point.

Let me assure you that I have absolutely no control over the BCDA whose board members were appointed by the past and present administrations. Jun Roxas, who happens to be my cousin, is the BCDA board chair, not the CEO, and as such he does not have power over board decisions and/or actions.

My only interest in the Poro Point seaport is its potential as a catalyst for rapid economic growth and development in Region 1 because I am from this region and from the country as a whole. I honestly feel that the government should look for the best and most qualified bidder to run the port. Let us not squander this opportunity to advance the country's economic growth.

—LUIS "CHAVIT" SINGSON,
governor, Ilocos Sur

Not in the fight

THIS IS A REACTION to the Aug. 14 column of Recah Trinidad.

Like Trinidad, I'm wondering what was in the mind of Brian Viloria when he fought Omar Niño Romero. It was very evident that Viloria was not in the fight. While Freddie Roach gave him instructions in-between rounds, he would only stare blankly. What was expected to be a clear victory turned out to be a sorry loss. With the pre-fight training he got, I'd say he could have easily beat his Mexican challenger. But he didn't follow his camp's game plan.

I guess he looked past over his challenger, too confident of victory and of a shot at a unification match against the WBA champion from Japan.

We are truly disappointed with him.

—LLOYD KENZO L. OASAY,
Information Office,
Kidapawan City LGU,
kenzooasay@yahoo.com

GSIS pension stopped

MY MOTHER-IN-law's Employee compensation benefit from the Government Service Insurance System has been stopped, this we came to know very recently after calling the GSIS pension department. The benefit, as stipulated in its policy, is supposed to be a lifetime benefit to be received by the surviving spouse of a GSIS member.

My mother-in-law has become accustomed to receiving her monthly pension two to three months late, but discontinuance is definitely cruel, especially for a 60-year-old retired public school teacher like her.

Even worse, the GSIS didn't even bother to inform her about it until we called the pension department, whose telephone line (551-1885) is mostly on fax mode.

—DAISY ISIDRO-MENDOZA,
daisyisidro@yahoo.com

What vegetables can China sell to RP, ask farmers

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Vegetable industry leaders here have asked the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry to take note of China's request to allow the importation of 10 different kinds of vegetables to the local market.

Members of the Benguet Vegetable Council asked the DA's Bureau of Plant Industry to study the country's bilateral pact with China and determine what vegetables are covered by China's right to ask for market access.

Market access

In a recent meeting at the capitol here, the council members also sought the creation of separate teams of pest risk analysis (PRA) experts for different kinds of vegetables.

They learned that China had formally asked trade and agriculture officials for market access for 10 kinds of vegetables—carrots, potatoes, broccoli, lotus root, lettuce, cabbage, ginger, sweet peas, celery and kalian tsai.

A local PRA team will go to China next month to conduct an analysis on carrots.

Dr. Asuncion Nagpala, plant pathologist, and Prof. Jocelyn Perez, entomologist, will represent Benguet State University (BSU) in the team that will include experts from the BPI and the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna.

The team will inspect China's production areas and packing and processing facilities for carrots to determine their compliance with sanitary and pythosanitary (pest and diseases) standards.

But Dr. Percival Alipit, a professor at BSU's research and extension unit, said the PRA team was formed solely for carrots.

He said agriculture officials must explain why nine other vegetables were included in China's request for market access.

Different teams

"Conducting a PRA on all the vegetables China wants to export to the country demands a high degree of expertise and time," Alipit said.

"The team bound for China was formed mainly for carrots and the surge of the kinds of vegetables China wants to bring into the country comes as very surprising," he said.

"It is only through a PRA that we could prevent the entry of high-risk foreign pests and diseases," he added.

He suggested that different PRA teams be formed for different kinds of vegetables since the degree of expertise varies from vegetable to vegetable.

Long before the pact

China and the Philippines signed a bilateral trade pact last year that pushed for tariff reductions and the lifting of quota restrictions on Chinese vegetables in exchange for a wider access of local products to China.

Even before the pact's signing, Chinese carrots had already entered the domestic market, after BPI issued it import permits.

Benguet's farmers and officials protested when the BPI later claimed that it had already conducted a PRA on Chinese carrots.

They said the PRA had been railroaded, prompting the DA to form a new PRA team that included BSU experts.

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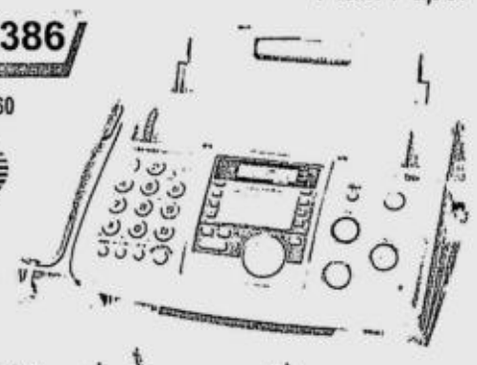

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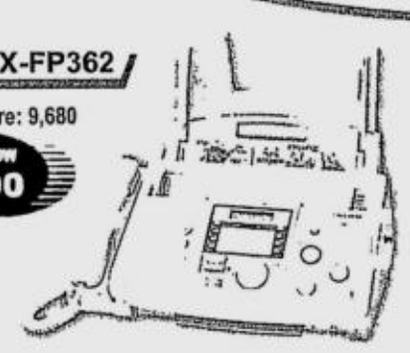
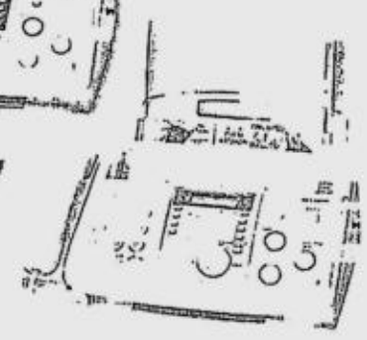


KX-FP342
Price Before: 7,130
PRICE NOW 6,590



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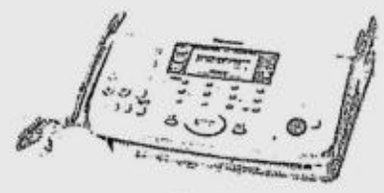

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KX-FT907

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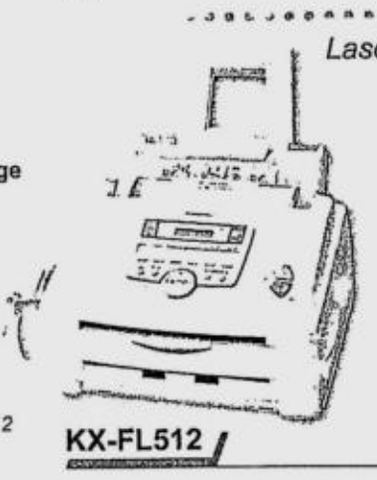

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Digital Speaker Phone			●		●	●	
Document Memory		20 pages (max)	20 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	170 pages (max)
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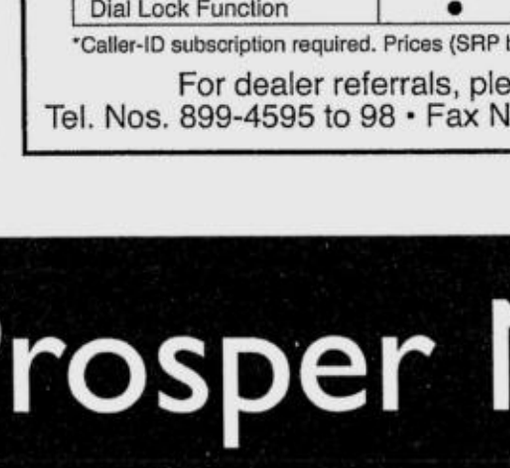

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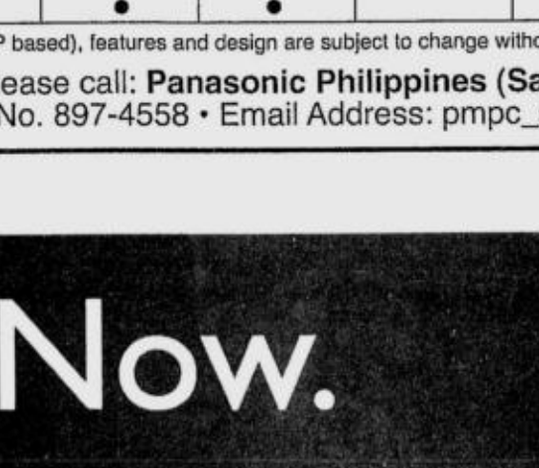
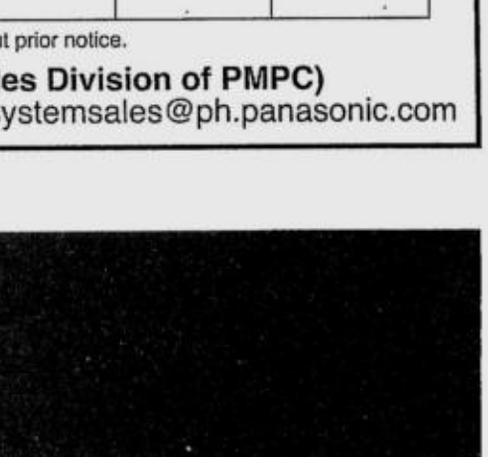


POWER GENERATOR



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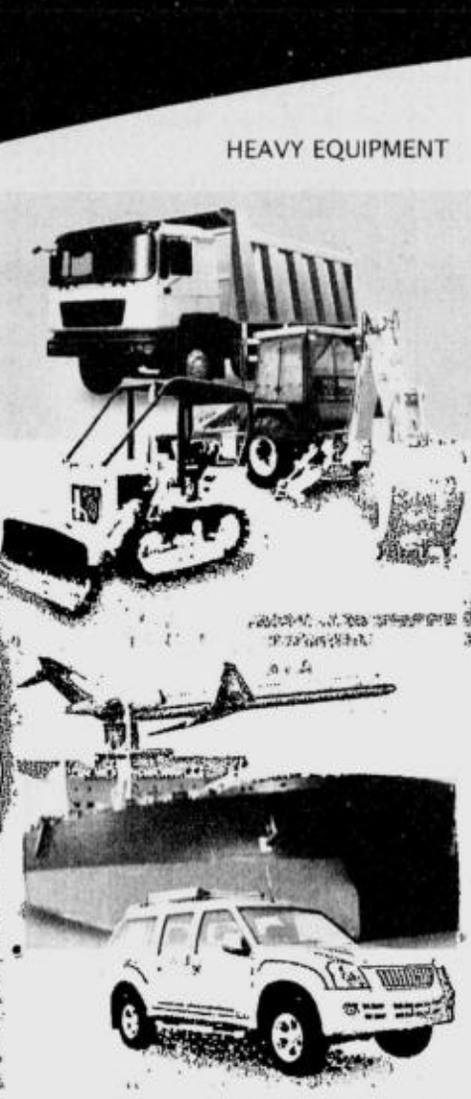
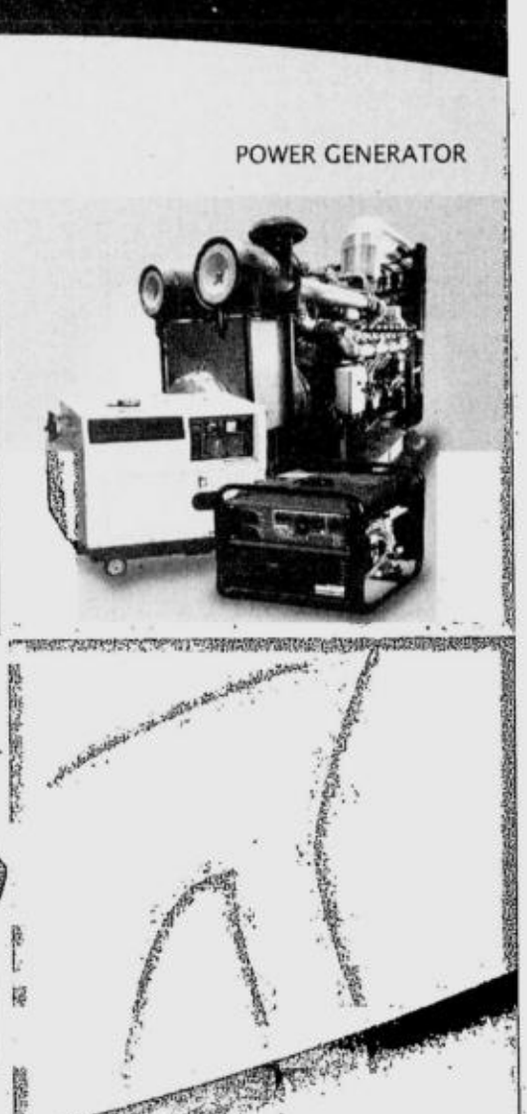


MEDICAL EQUIPMENT



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LA 45 sqm FA 123 58 sqm
3-storey residential townhouse-type condominium with 2BR, 3TB, with parking
Unit 12 Crystal Townhomes, No. 463 Don Ejercito St.
Min. Bid Price: P 2,336,000

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FA 188.41
Unit Mezzanine Shop 5, Goldland Tower Condo Eisenhower St., Greenhills
Min. Bid Price: P 5,413,000

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FA 300 sqm
Unit 667-A V.V. Soliven Commercial Complex, EDSA
Min. Bid Price: P 4,050,000

SJ-L-12 – Condominium (Office)
FA 44.9 sqm
Unit 2001 V.V. Soliven Commercial Complex, EDSA
Min. Bid Price: P 607,000

SJ-L-13 – Condominium (Office)
FA 26 sqm
Unit 2002 V.V. Soliven Commercial Complex, EDSA
Min. Bid Price: P 351,000

SJ-L-14 – Condominium (Office)
FA 84 sqm
With parking slot
Suite 409 Sunrise Condominium, Ortigas Avenue (nearest corner - McKinley St.)
Min. Bid Price: P 2,740,000

SJ-L-15 – Condominium
FA 214 sqm
Residential condo; 3BR, 3TB; with 2 parking slots
Unit 403 Westwood Condominium, Eisenhower St. Greenhills
Min. Bid Price: P 5,693,000

SJ-L-16 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 34.5 sqm FA 105.52 sqm
3-storey residential townhouse-type condominium with 2BR, 3TB, with parking
Unit 6 Crystal Townhomes, No. 463 Don Ejercito St.
Min. Bid Price: P 1,884,000

SJ-L-17 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 34.5 sqm FA 105.52 sqm
3-storey residential townhouse-type condominium with 2BR, 3TB, with parking
Unit 8 Crystal Townhomes, No. 463 Don Ejercito St.
Min. Bid Price: P 1,884,000

RIZAL

RIZAL - TAYTAY

RIZ-L-21 - House & Lot
LA 560 sqm FA 333.9 sqm
One-storey residential
Lot 5 & 6 Block 21 Capri St., San Francisco Village
Min. Bid Price: P 2,310,000

RIZAL – BINANGONAN

RIZ-L-17 - House & Lot
LA 450 sqm FA 420 sqm
residential bldg. 3-storey+attic; 3BR, 3TB, carport
Lot 11 Block 36 Ligaya St., San Carlos Heights
Bo Tayuman
Min. Bid Price: P 2,091,000

RIZ-V-45 - Vacant Lot
LA 204 sqm
Lot 56 Block 63 Village East Homes
Min. Bid Price: P 383,000

RIZAL - ANTIPOLO

RIZ-L-4 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 72 sqm FA 65 sqm
2-storey townhouse with 2 BR & 1 TB, garage
Lot 11 Block 1 Buenos Aires Townhomes, Sumulong Highway
Min. Bid Price: P 501,000

RIZ-L-5 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 72 sqm FA 106.4 sqm
2-storey townhouse with 2BR, 2TB, garage
Lot 8 Block 1 Buenos Aires Townhomes, Sumulong Highway
Min. Bid Price: P 862,000

RIZ-L-6 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 72 sqm FA 107 sqm
2-storey townhouse with 2BR, 2TB, garage
Lot 9 Block 1 Buenos Aires Townhomes, Sumulong Highway
Min. Bid Price: P 800,000

RIZ-L-15 – Others
LA 213 sqm FA 445 sqm
3-storey schoold building with 7CR
Lot 1 Block 7 Emerald corner Zircon Sts., Pines City Royale Subdivision
Min. Bid Price: P 1,076,000

RIZ-L-20 - House & Lot
LA 864 sqm FA 560 sqm
2-storey residential house and an unfinished 2-storey residential, 2BR, 1TB
Lot 10 Block 3 Tallorbird St., Victoria Valley Subd.
Min. Bid Price: P 3,110,000

RIZ-V-4 - Vacant Lot
LA 305 sqm
Lot 20 Block 1 Concorde St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 854,000

RIZ-V-5 - Vacant Lot
LA 308 sqm
Lot 22 Block 1 Concorde St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 863,000

RIZ-V-6 - Vacant Lot
LA 308 sqm
Lot 25 Block 1 Concorde St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 863,000

RIZ-V-7 - Vacant Lot
LA 308 sqm
Lot 31 Block 1 Concorde St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 863,000

RIZ-V-8 - Vacant Lot
LA 424 sqm
Lot 37 Block 1 Concorde St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 1,188,000

RIZ-V-9 - Vacant Lot
LA 308 sqm
Lot 6 Block 2 Concorde St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 863,000

RIZ-V-10 - Vacant Lot
LA 308 sqm
Lot 23 Block 2 Clarkson St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 863,000

RIZ-V-11 - Vacant Lot
LA 308 sqm
Lot 28 Block 2 Concorde St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hill
Min. Bid Price: P 863,000

RIZ-V-12 - Vacant Lot
LA 308 sqm
Lot 29 Block 2 Clarkson St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 863,000

RIZ-V-13 - Vacant Lot
LA 367 sqm
Lot 32 Block 2 Concorde St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 1,131,000

RIZ-V-14 - Vacant Lot
LA 420 sqm
Lot 25 Block 3 Carmel St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 1,176,000

RIZ-V-15 - Vacant Lot
LA 370 sqm
Lot 29 Block 3 Chelsea St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 985,000

RIZ-V-16 - Vacant Lot
LA 306 sqm
Lot 49 Block 3 Chelsea St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 863,000

RIZ-V-17 - Vacant Lot
LA 367 sqm
Lot 53 Block 3 Chelsea St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 1,105,000

RIZ-V-19 - Vacant Lot
LA 420 sqm
Lot 11 Block 1 Carmel St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 1,176,000

RIZ-V-20 - Vacant Lot
LA 720 sqm
Lot 3 Block 1 Sta Monica 3, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 2,168,000

RIZ-V-21 - Vacant Lot
LA 720 sqm
Lot 2 Block 1 Sta Monica 3, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 2,168,000

RIZ-V-22 - Vacant Lot
LA 820 sqm
Lot 1 Block 1 Sta Monica 3, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 2,583,000

RIZ-V-23 - Vacant Lot
LA 357 sqm
Lot 1 Block 13 Narcisus Drive, Beverly Hills Subd
Min. Bid Price: P 641,000

RIZ-V-28 - Vacant Lot
LA 876 sqm
Lot 19 Block 16 Sunflower Drive Extension, Beverly Hills Subdivision
Min. Bid Price: P 975,000

RIZ-V-29 - Vacant Lot
LA 669 sqm
Lot 7 Block 16 Sunflower Drive Extension, Beverly Hills Subdivision
Min. Bid Price: P 884,000

RIZ-V-31 - Vacant Lot
LA 1508 sqm
Lot 5 Block 15 Beverly Hills Avenue, Beverly Hills Subdivision
Min. Bid Price: P 1,056,000

RIZ-V-32 - Vacant Lot
LA 1811sqm
Lot 6 Block 15 Beverly Hills Avenue, Beverly Hills Subdivision
Min. Bid Price: P 1,304,000

RIZ-V-33 - Vacant Lot
LA 1622 sqm
Lot 7 Block 15 Beverly Hills Avenue, Beverly Hills Subdivision
Min. Bid Price: P 1,168,000

RIZ-V-34 - Vacant Lot
LA 3089 sqm
Lot 8 Block 15 Beverly Hills Avenue, Beverly Hills Subdivision
Min. Bid Price: P 2,210,000

RIZ-V-35 - Vacant Lot
LA 2032 sqm
Lot 9 Block 15 Beverly Hills Avenue, Beverly Hills Subdivision
Min. Bid Price: P 1,464,000

RIZ-V-36 - Vacant Lot
LA 1271 sqm
Lot 10 Block 15 Beverly Hills Avenue, Beverly Hills Subdivision
Min. Bid Price: P 916,000

RIZ-V-37 - Vacant Lot
LA 1181 sqm
Lot 11 Block 15 Beverly Hills Avenue, Beverly Hills Subdivision
Min. Bid Price: P 851,000

RIZ-V-38 - Vacant Lot
LA 1243 sqm
Lot 12 Block 15 Beverly Hills Avenue, Beverly Hills Subdivision
Min. Bid Price: P 895,000

RIZ-V-39 - Vacant Lot
LA 610 sqm
Lot 11 Block 5 Kirksville St., Parkridge Estate, Mayamot
Min. Bid Price: P 1,647,000

RIZ-V-40 - Vacant Lot
LA 621sqm
Lot 26 Block 5 Parkridge Estate 1, dela Paz
Min. Bid Price: P 1,631,000

RIZ-V-41 - Vacant Lot
LA 705 sqm
Lot 1 Block 4 Clean Drive cor. Brunswick, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 1,728,000

RIZ-V-42 - Vacant Lot
LA 668 sqm
Lot 17 Clifton St., Town and Country Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 2,004,000

RIZ-V-43 - Vacant Lot
LA 2040.6 sqm
Lot 32 Block 5 King's Road, Valley Golf Subdivision, Mayamot
Min. Bid Price: P 2,857,000

RIZ-V-44 - Vacant Lot
LA 1,489 sqm
Lot 1 Block 1 Beverly St., Sta Barbara 2, Mission Hills Subd
Min. Bid Price: P 4,378,000

RIZ-V-50 - Vacant Lot
LA 2,111 sqm
Lot 3 Block 1 Beverly St., Sta Barbara, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 6,650,000

RIZ-V-51 - Vacant Lot
LA 2,099 sqm
Lot 4 Block 1 Beverly St., Sta Barbara, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 6,612,000

RIZ-V-52 - Vacant Lot
LA 1,010 sqm
Lot 7 Block 2 Mission Hills Ave., Sta Barbara, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 3,182,000

RIZ-V-53 - Vacant Lot
LA 350 sqm
Lot 19 Block 4 Cedar St., Sta Catalina, Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 980,000

RIZ-V-55 - Vacant Lot
LA 882.00 sqm
Lot 14 Block 11 2nd Avenue, Beverly Hills Subd., Taytay
Min. Bid Price: P 1,129,000

RIZ-V-56 - Vacant Lot
LA 817 sqm
Lots 4 & 15 Block 11, 2nd Avenue, Beverly Hills Subd., Taytay
Min. Bid Price: P 1,046,000

RIZ-V-57 - Vacant Lot
LA 764 sqm
Lot 19 Block 12 Indiana St., Palos Verde Executive Village, Bo. Seven Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 1,834,000

RIZ-V-58 - Vacant Lot
LA 1570 sqm
Lot 11 Block 10 Beverly Hills Avenue & Azucena St., Beverly Hills Subd
Min. Bid Price: P 1,500,000

RIZ-V-59 - Vacant Lot
LA 150 sqm
Lot 24 Block 6 Apitong St., Town & Country Heights, Bgy San Luis
Min. Bid Price: P 282,000

RIZ-V-60 - Vacant Lot
LA 893 sqm
Lots 9 & 10 Block 52 Phase III Forest Hills Residential Estate Golf & Country Club, Bgy San Isidro
Min. Bid Price: P 2,010,000

RIZAL – SAN MATEO

RIZ-L-22 - House & Lot
LA 218 sqm FA 296 sqm
Lot 2-H-2-B Plater Subd., Ampid, San Mateo
Min. Bid Price: P 2,518,000

RIZAL – CAINTA

RIZ-L-1 - House & Lot (unfinished)
LA 261 sqm FA 524 sqm
3-storey (incl attic) residential building
Lots 8 & 9 Roosevelt Park Subdivision, Cainta
Min. Bid Price: P 3,024,000

RIZ-L-24 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 90 sqm FA 214 sqm
2-storey townhouse with attic
Lots 10 & 11 Southfort Villa Townhomes, ROTC Hunters Road, Cainta
Min. Bid Price: P 3,253,000

RIZAL – ANGONO

RIZ-V-61 - Vacant Lot
LA 283 sqm
Lot 15 Block 32 Village East Executive Homes
Min. Bid Price: P 213,000

RIZ-V-62 - Vacant Lot
LA 567 sqm
Lot 8 Block 31 Village East Executive Homes
Min. Bid Price: P 705,000

RIZ-V-63 - Vacant Lot
LA 400 sqm
Lot 2 Block 32 Village East Executive Homes
Min. Bid Price: P 510,000

RIZ-V-64 - Vacant Lot
LA 370 sqm
Lot 5 Block 31 Village East Executive Homes
Min. Bid Price: P 444,000

RIZ-V-65 - Vacant Lot
LA 296 sqm
Lot 2 Block 31 Village East Executive Homes
Min. Bid Price: P 378,000

RIZ-V-66 - Vacant Lot
LA 161 sqm
Lot 12 Block 31 Village East Executive Homes
Min. Bid Price: P 204,000

RIZ-V-67 – Vacant Lot
LA 260 sqm
Lot 19 Block 32 Village East Executive Homes
Min. Bid Price: P 210,000

RIZ-V-68 - Vacant Lot
LA 280 sqm
Lot 17 Block 32 Village East Executive Homes
Min. Bid Price: P 210,000

RIZ-V-69 - Vacant Lot
LA 161 sqm
Lot 13 Block 31 Village East Executive Homes
Min. Bid Price: P 204,000

RIZ-V-70 - Vacant Lot
LA 382 sqm
Lot 11 Block 31 Village East Executive Homes
Min. Bid Price: P 430,000

RIZ-V-71 - Vacant Lot
LA 150 sqm
Lot 21 Block 7 La Salle Ave. Town & Country Heights, Bgy San Luis
Min. Bid Price: P 293,000

PASIG CITY

PS-L-2 – Condominium
FA 198.75 sqm
Residential/office unit; 3 rooms, 2TB, 1 parking slot
Unit SW R-144 Goldloop Towers, Amber Avenue, Ortigas Center
Min. Bid Price: P 5,844,000

MARIKINA CITY

MAR-L-1 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 54.1 sqm FA 143 sqm
Residential/commercial townhouse unit, 1BR, 1TB existing w/ 2 unfinished
Unit 10 West Drive, Bo Bayanbayanan
Min. Bid Price: P 1,000,000

MANDALUYONG CITY

MAD-L-1 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 88.6 sqm FA 162 sqm
3-storey commercial unit garage
Unit 8 BSA Townhomes, JB Vargas St
Min. Bid Price: P 3,880,000

MAD-L-3 – Condominium (office)
FA 69.62 sqm
Bare unit
Unit 1003 Summit One Condominium, Shaw Boulevard (nearest corner - Old Wack-wack Road)
Min. Bid Price: P 1,893,000

MAD-L-4 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 74.25 sqm FA 190 sqm
Residential townhouse, 3BR, 3TB
Unit 28 BSA Townhomes, JB Vargas St.
Min. Bid Price: P 3,560,000

MAKATI CITY

MAK-L-5 – Condominium
FA 72.081 sqm
Residential condo unit 2BR, 2TB
Unit 902 Praise Condominium, M. Santillan St.
Min. Bid Price: P 1,893,000

MAK-L-6 – Condominium
FA 76.671 sqm
Residential condo unit 2BR, 2TB
Unit 903 Praise Condominium, M. Santillan St
Min. Bid Price: P 2,013,000

MAK-L-7 – Condominium
FA 190.043 sqm
Residential condo unit with 2 levels 2BR, 2TB
Unit 901-L & 901-U Praise Condominium
M. Santillan St
Min. Bid Price: P 5,147,000

MAK-L-21 – Condominium
FA 68.53 sqm
Office/residential condo with parking slot
Unit 203 Southstar Plaza, Cityland 8, South Superhighway
Min. Bid Price: P 1,500,000

MAK-L-22 – Condominium
FA 242.82 sqm
Residential condo, 4BR, 4TB
Units 1109 & 1110 Makati Cinema Square Condo, Pasong Tamo
Min. Bid Price: P 6,605,000

MAK-L-25 – Condominium
FA 127.39 sqm
Residential condo, 3BR, 3TB with 2 parking slots
Unit 2408 Agha Salcedo Condo, HV dela Costa St., Salcedo Village
Min. Bid Price: P 7,705,000

MAK-L-26 – Condominium (bare)
FA 149.7 sqm
Residential unit, open layout for construction, 3TB
Unit 407 Makati Cinema Square Tower, Pasong Tamo
Min. Bid Price: P 2,935,000

MAK-L-27 - House & Lot
LA 187 sqm FA 128 sqm
2-storey residential building, 2BR, 2TB
Lot 8 Block 3 No. 6734 Taylo St., Bgy Pio del Pilar
Min. Bid Price: P 3,107,000

MAK-L-28 - Condominium
FA 110 sqm
Residential condo, 2BR, 2TB with parking lot
Unit 12-D Makati Bel-Air Apartments, P. Burgos St. cor. Imelda Avenue, Bel-Air
Min. Bid Price: P 3,080,000

VALENZUELA CITY

VAL-L-3 - Townhouse / Apartment (unfinished)
LA 1,855 sqm FA 539 sqm
7 unit, 2 storey townhouse structure with large front yard less than 5 kms away from SM Marilao
Lot 1 Caloong 2 Bgy Caloong
Min. Bid Price: P 5,054,000

VAL-L-4 - House & Lot (unfinished)
LA 240 sqm FA 561 sqm
2 residential buildings -- bldg 1: 3-storey with 7BR and 5 BR; bldg 2: 2-storey with 5BR and 2TB
Lot 7 Blk 23 San Francisco Subd., Tugatog
Min. Bid Price: P 1,700,000

VAL-L-5 - House & Lot
LA 186 sqm FA 130 sqm
5BR, 2TB situated in middle-class neighborhood
#206 Galas St., Bo. Bignay
Min. Bid Price: P 1,077,000

VAL-V-2 - Vacant Lot
LA 2,349 sqm
Commercial lot within school campus
Interior M.H. del Pilar St., Malanday
Min. Bid Price: P 4,139,000 sqm

MALABON

MAL-L-1 - House & Lot
LA 369 sqm FA 296 sqm
2-storey house, 4BR, 4TB, (w/ office and warehouse-type structure behind house) ideal for business which require a residential dorm for workers
63 Col. Espiritu St., Tenejeros
Min. Bid Price: P 2,335,000

MAL-L-2 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 299 sqm FA 1,149 sqm
3-storey com'l/res'l bldg w/ 20-door apartment and 3-door com'l frontage w/ roofdeck w/ basketball court; ideal for apt business w/ provision for landlord unit
134 MH Del Pilar Road, Santulan
Min. Bid Price: P 8,588,000

CALOOCAN

CAL-V-2 - Vacant Lot
LA 400 sqm
Residential lot very near Vicas Market & Camarin Road
Lot 7 Block 13 Congress Village, Bo. Bagumbong
Min. Bid Price: P 704,000

BULACAN

BUL-L-11 – Farm Lot
LA 5,765 sqm
Area for piggery, poultry, agricultural and bungalow w/ 2BR, 1TB
#293 Km 38 Pulong Buhangin, Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 4,214,000

BUL-L-12 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 279 sqm FA 616 sqm
3-storey apartment bldg., partially finished 5 min. away from SM Marilao via pedicab
L3 B2 Sorsente St., Sorsente Subd., Tugatog
Meycauayan
Min. Bid Price: P 2,800,000

BUL-L-13 - House & Lot
LA 656 sqm FA 305 sqm
Split level house, 7BR, 7TB, w/ swimming pool at the back w/ underground secret passageway
1029 Libs St., Saluysoy, Meycauayan
Min. Bid Price: P 4,500,000

BUL-L-14 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 299 sqm FA 539 sqm
3-storey semi-finished apartment bldg. w/ provisions for mixed res'l/com'l use
Blk 2 Lot 2 Sorsente St., Bo Caingin, Meycauayan
Min. Bid Price: P 2,800,000

BUL-L-15 - House & Lot
LA 1,200 sqm FA 170 sqm
Single detached house, 4BR, 2TB
Lot 770-A-10-B Gravador Road, Bo. San Jose
Patag, Sta Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 1,900,000

BUL-V-10 - Vacant Lot (5 Vacant lots (Lot 13 to 17 Block 7)
L13 B7=278 sqm; L14 B7= 265 sqm; L15 B7= 296 sqm; L16 B7= 304 sqm; and, L17 B7= 284 sqm
Richmond Subd., Bahay Pare, Meycauayan
Min. Bid Price: P 1,499,000

BUL-V-11 - Vacant Lot
LA 659 sqm
2 plots of vacant subdivision lots
Lots 28 & 29 Blk 3 Mahogany St., Green Plains, Calumpit
Min. Bid Price: P 1,286,000

BUL-V-14 - Vacant Lot
LA 1,268 sqm
Adjoining vacant lots secured by concrete hollow block wall
Blk 4 Lot 1, 2 & 3 Ma. Magdalena Subd., San Juan, Balagtas
Min. Bid Price: P 1,876,000

QUEZON CITY

QC-L-2 - House & Lot
LA 240 sqm FA 638 sqm
3-storey house with 5BR, 3TB
Lot 4 Block 138 Celosia St., Del Nacia 4 Tandang Sora
Min. Bid Price: P 4,368,000

QC-L-5 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 300 sqm FA 339 sqm
2-storey house with 3BR, 2TB
42-B Mayor A. Rodriguez Ave., Tandang Sora
Min. Bid Price: P 1,872,000

QC-L-6 - Townhouse / Apartment
FA 168 sqm
2-storey townhouse with 3BR, 2TB
Unit B-10 Verde Royale Townhomes, Pluto St., Bahay Toro
Min. Bid Price: P 3,092,000

QC-L-7 - Townhouse / Apartment
FA 230.61sqm
3-storey townhouse (w/ attic), 4BR, 4TB
Unit 10 Capitol Golf Townhomes, Capitol Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 4,300,000

QC-L-8 - Townhouse / Apartment
FA 190.52 sqm
2-storey townhouse (w/ attic), 4BR, 3TB
Unit 26 Capitol Golf Townhomes ,Capitol Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 4,001,000

QC-L-11 – Condominium
FA 76.8 sqm
Studio-type com'l unit w/ assigned parking slot
Unit A-214 Hillcrest Condominium, E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Cubao
Min. Bid Price: P 1,229,000

QC-L-12 – Condominium
FA 60.37 sqm
Res'l condo 3BR, 2TB
Unit 1005 Regalia Park Tower, P. Tuazon St., Cubao
Min. Bid Price: P 1,739,000

QC-L-13 – Condominium
FA 34.63 sqm
Studio-type com'l condo No parking slot
Unit 109 Regalia Park Tower, P. Tuazon St., Cubao
Min. Bid Price: P 1,159,000

QC-L-14 – Condominium
FA 44.43 sqm
Studio-type com'l condo w/ 1TB No parking slot
Unit 110 Regalia Park Tower, P. Tuazon St., Cubao
Min. Bid Price: P 1,486,000

QC-L-15 – Condominium
FA 44.43 sqm
Studio-type com'l condo w/ 1TB No parking slot
Unit 111 Regalia Park Tower, P. Tuazon St., Cubao
Min. Bid Price: P 1,486,000

PASAY CITY

PAS-V-1 - Vacant Lot
LA 557 sqm
Lots 11, 14, 17, & 20, Block 23, Mariquita St
Min. Bid Price: P 5,219,000

PARAÑAQUE CITY

PAR-L-5 - House & Lot
LA 493 sqm FA 271.44 sqm
2-storey house, 4BR, 2TB
No. 12 Rome cor. Naples Sts., Merville Park Subd
Min. Bid Price: P 4,320,000

PAR-L-6 - House & Lot
LA 400 sqm FA 367 sqm
2-storey house, 6BR, 4TB
No. 9 Teheran St., Merville Park Subd
Min. Bid Price: P 4,069,000

PAR-L-9 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 60 sqm FA 126 sqm
2-storey townhouse, 2BR, 2TB
Daang Batang cor. Las Casas de Manila
Min. Bid Price: P 1,844,000

PAR-L-10 – Condominium
FA 172.69 sqm
Residential condo, 2BR, 2TB; 1 parking slot
Unit 702 Pacific Coast Plaza, 1st Villamar St., Tambo
Min. Bid Price: P 3,723,000

PAR-L-11 – Condominium
FA 164.62 sqm
Residential condo, 2BR, 2TB; 1 parking slot
Unit 703 Pacific Coast Plaza, 1st Villamar St., Tambo
Min. Bid Price: P 3,905,000

PAR-L-14 – Condominium
FA 198 sqm
Residential condo, 2BR, 2TB; 1 parking slot
Unit 1401 Pacific Coast Plaza, 1st Villamar St., Tambo
Min. Bid Price: P 3,467,000

PAR-L-15 – Condominium
FA 167 sqm
Residential condo, 2BR, 2TB; 1 parking slot
Unit 604 Pacific Coast Plaza, 1st Villamar St., Tambo
Min. Bid Price: P 3,668,000

PAR-L-16 – Condominium
FA 95.15 sqm
Residential condo, 2BR, 2TB
Unit 903, 9/F Chateau de Baie Condo, Roxas Blvd., Brgy. Baclaran
Min. Bid Price: P 2,300,000

PAR-L-18 – Condominium
FA 196 sqm
Residential condo, 2BR, 2TB; 1 parking slot
Unit 1801 Pacific Coast Plaza, 1st Villamar St., Tambo
Min. Bid Price: P 4,783,000

PAR-L-20 - House & Lot (2 lots)
LA 310 sqm FA 168 sqm
Bungalow, second lot is 310 sqm vacant lot
No. 11 Monterey St., Merville Park Subd.
Min. Bid Price: P4,650,000

PAR-V-1 - Vacant Lot
LA 534 sqm
Residential lot
Lot 5 Block 25 Road 9-H, United Parañaque Subd., Phase V, Bo. San Dionisio
Min. Bid Price: P 1,538,000

MUNTINLUPA

MUN-L-1 - House & Lot
LA 240 sqm FA 328 sqm
2-storey house w/ 6BR & 4TB
Lot 20 Block 25 General Capinpin St., Soldiers Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 1,594,000

MUN-L-2 - House & Lot
LA 500 sqm FA 621sqm
3-storey house w/ 7BR & 5TB
Lot 13 Block 8 San Bernardino St.
Susana Heights Subd
Min. Bid Price: P 5,253,000

MUN-V-1 - Vacant Lot
LA 524 sqm
Lot 9 Block 19 Greenwich St., Hillsborough Subd
Min. Bid Price: P 3,930,000

LAS PIÑAS

LP-L-4 - House & Lot
LA 280 sqm FA 581 sqm
3-storey house w/ 6BR & 5TB
Lot 19 Block 25 Peking St., BF Homes
Min. Bid Price: P 4,651,000

LP-L-10 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 150 sqm FA 92 sqm
2-storey townhouse w/ 3BR & 2TB
Lot 22 Block 62 Rumulus St., La Segovia, BF Resort
Min. Bid Price: P 1,242,000

LP-L-11 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 277 sqm FA 312 sqm
2-storey 3-door apartment
Lot 3 Block 4 Flintors Ave. cor. Mojica St., Romarville-Sterling Subd
Min. Bid Price: P 2,937,000

LAGUNA

L-L-110 - House & Lot
LA 150 sqm FA 144 sqm
2-storey house
Lot 28 Block 5 Bel-Air St., St. Francis Subd., Biñan
Min. Bid Price: P 1,148,000

L-L-111 - House & Lot
LA 302 sqm FA 118.38 sqm
House w/ 5BR, 3TB
Lots 3 & 4 Block 2 Ramirez Avenue, Calaquiz I Subd., San Pedro
Min. Bid Price: P 3,977,000

L-L-113 - House & Lot
LA 199 sqm FA 184 sqm
One-storey house w/ 5BR & 2TB
Lot 20 Block 2, Phase 1, Albatros cor. Chikadee St., Pacita Complex II, San Pedro
Min. Bid Price: P 1,480,000

L-L-114 - House & Lot
LA 300 sqm FA 659 sqm
3-storey house (hotel type of building) w/ 18BR & 16TB
Lots 5 & 6 Block 25 Villa Toledo San Lorenzo South Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 4,800,000

L-V-50 - Vacant Lot
LA 460 sqm
Lot 4 Block 12, Apitong St., Caris II Subd., Canlubang Calamba
Min. Bid Price: P 1,150,000

CAVITE

C-L-106 - House & Lot
LA 389 sqm FA 184 sqm
1-storey house w/ 3BR & 2TB
No. 230 Orchids St., Serapcon Subd.
Bo. Pag-asa III, Imus
Min. Bid Price: P 983,000

C-L-120 - House & Lot
LA 1,1812 sqm FA 193 sqm
1-storey house w/ 2BR & 2TB
No. 167 Toclong 1, Brgy. Toclong, Imus
Min. Bid Price: P 4,329,000

C-L-121 - House & Lot
LA 160 sqm FA 51.5 sqm
1-storey house w/ 2BR & 1TB
Lot 24 Block 4 Ivory St., Springville North, Bacoor
Min. Bid Price: P 821,000

C-V-E10 - Vacant Lot
LA 486 sqm
Lot 69 Block 75 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,312,200

C-V-E11 - Vacant Lot
LA 595 sqm
Lot 41 Block 6 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,606,500

C-V-E12 - Vacant Lot
LA 499 sqm
Lot 67 Block 6 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,392,210

C-V-E13 - Vacant Lot
LA 593 sqm
Lot 68 Block 6 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,654,470

C-V-E14 - Vacant Lot
LA 596 sqm
Lot 66 Block 75 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,609,200

C-V-E15 - Vacant Lot
LA 512 sqm
Lot 70 Block 6 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,428,480

C-V-E16 - Vacant Lot
LA 545 sqm
Lot 67 Block 75 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,471,500

C-V-E17 - Vacant Lot
LA 479 sqm
Lot 1 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,007,100,

C-V-E18 - Vacant Lot
Lot 63 Block 75 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,207,050

C-V-E19 - Vacant Lot
LA 578 sqm
Lot 1 Block 94 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,508,580

C-V-E20 - Vacant Lot
Lot 17 Block 7 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,350,360

C-V-E21 - Vacant Lot
LA 491 sqm
Lot 71 Block 8 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,369,890

C-V-E22 - Vacant Lot
LA 555 sqm
Lot 65 Block 75 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,498,500

C-V-E23 - Vacant Lot
LA 731 sqm
Lot 104 Block 75 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,973,700

C-V-E24 - Vacant Lot
LA 314 sqm
Lot 2 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 791,280

C-V-E25 - Vacant Lot
LA 554 sqm
Lot 2 Block 94 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,346,220

C-V-E26 - Vacant Lot
LA 587 sqm
Lot 71 Block 75 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,584,900

C-V-E27 - Vacant Lot
LA 483 sqm
Lot 70 Block 75 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,304,100

C-V-E28 - Vacant Lot
LA 376 sqm
Lot 7 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 947,520

C-V-E29 - Vacant Lot
LA 429 sqm
Lot 3 Block 94 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,042,470

C-V-E30 - Vacant Lot
LA 801 sqm
Lot 82 Block 8 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 2,306,880

C-V-E31 - Vacant Lot
LA 509 sqm
Lot 66 Block 75 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,374,300

C-V-E32 - Vacant Lot
LA 736 sqm
Lot 1 Block 17 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,987,200

C-V-E33 - Vacant Lot
LA 378 sqm
Lot 12 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 952,560

C-V-E34 - Vacant Lot
LA 552 sqm
Lot 69 Block 8 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,540,080

C-V-E35 - Vacant Lot
LA 400 sqm
Lot 5 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,008,000

C-V-E36 - Vacant Lot
LA 465 sqm
Lot 4 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,171,800

C-V-E37 - Vacant Lot
LA 414 sqm
Lot 3 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,043,280

C-V-E38 - Vacant Lot
LA 341 sqm
Lot 10 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 859,320

C-V-E39 - Vacant Lot
LA 400 sqm
Lot 6 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,008,000

C-V-E40 - Vacant Lot
LA 299 sqm
Lot 11 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 753,480

C-V-E41 - Vacant Lot
LA 376 sqm
Lot 8 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 947,520

C-V-E42 - Vacant Lot
LA 341 sqm
Lot 9 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 859,320

C-V-E43 - Vacant Lot
LA 660 sqm
Lot 2 Block 27 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,836,000

C-V-E44 - Vacant Lot
LA 734 sqm
Lot 3 Block 27 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,981,800

C-V-E45 - Vacant Lot
LA 486 sqm
Lot 26 Block 27 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,339,200

C-V-E46 - Vacant Lot
LA 451 sqm
Lot 4 Block 27 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,217,700

C-V-E47 - Vacant Lot
LA 453 sqm
Lot 24 Block 27 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: 1,223,100

C-V-E48 - Vacant Lot
LA 477 sqm
Lot 13 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,287,900

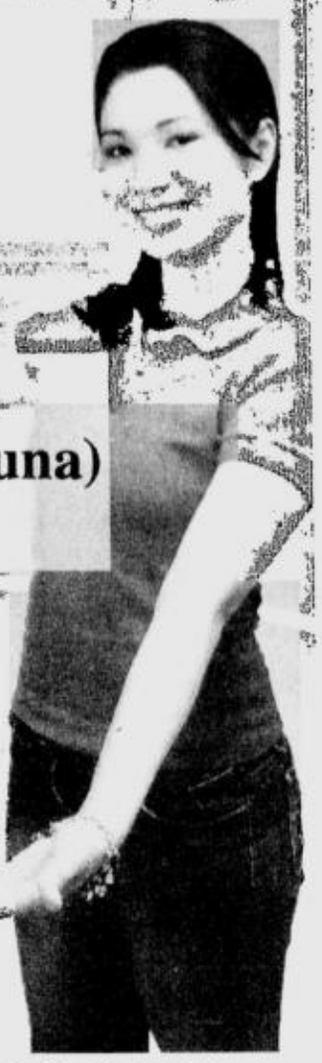
C-V-101 - Vacant Lot
LA 276 sqm
Lot 8 Bock 31, Uniwide Coastal City, Dreamland Subd., Bo. Timalan, Naic
Min. Bid Price: P 414,000

C

BUENA MANO Auction

2006 AUCTION TOUR — **SOUTH LUZON**

PROVINCIAL CONTACT NOS.: LIPA (Batangas) - (043) 757-1001 • **SAN PABLO** (Laguna) - (049) 561-3609



as low as **9.5% interest**

as long as **12 years payment term**

Max's Restaurant San Pablo
Maharlika Highway, San Pablo City (Laguna)
August 27, 2006 – Sunday, 1:00 PM

LOW downpayment

LAGUNA

LL-1 - Lot with improvement
LA 257 sqm FA 126.92 sqm
Bungalow residential building
Wild Rice St., Bermuda Subd., Banlic, Cabuyao
Min. Bid Price: P 955,836

LL-4 - Lot with improvement
LA 706 sqm FA 327.48 sqm
One-storey residential building (5 BR/2TB)
New City Subd., San Roque, San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 3,000,000

LL-5 - Lot with improvement
LA 503 sqm FA 126 sqm
Bungalow residential building (3BR/2TB)
New City Subd. II, Brgy. San Roque
San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 1,257,500

LL-7 - Lot with improvement
LA 633 sqm
Unfinished bungalow
Anacleta St., Casa Real, Pakil
Min. Bid Price: P 208,000

LL-8 - Lot with improvement
LA 1,311 sqm FA 150 sqm
One-storey residential building
Lot no. 3 Estiva Compound A., Mabini Extension, San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 3,500,000

LL-9 - Lot with improvement
LA 2,062 sqm FA 460 sqm
Residential building (7BR/ 5TB)
Doña Perfecta & Don Placido Sts., Vesco Subd., Brgy. 111-F, San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 4,720,125

LL-12 - Lot with improvement
LA 315 sqm FA 160.15 sqm
Bungalow residential building (3 BR/ 2TB)
Immaculate Concepcion Compound
San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 1,800,000

LL-13- Lot with improvement
LA 10,792 sqm FA 101 sqm
Office/bodega
Brgy. San Jose, Sta. Cruz
Min. Bid Price: P 3,500,000

LV-1 - Vacant lot
LA 431 sqm
Interior P. Guevarra, Poblacion, Sta. Cruz
Min. Bid Price: P 1,000,000

LV-2 - Vacant lot
LA 428 sqm
Lot-199-G Interior P. Guevarra St., Sta. Cruz
Min. Bid Price: P 1,000,000

LV-4 - Vacant lot
LA 1,311 sqm
Lot no. 2 Estiva Compound A, Mabini Extension, San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 3,000,000.

LV-6 - Vacant lot
LA 1,311 sqm
Lot no. 7 Estiva Compound, Mabini Extension, San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 3,000,000

LV-7 - Vacant lot
LA 173 sqm
Lakecity Subd., San Gregorio, San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 350,000

LV-10 - Vacant lot
LA 7,551 sqm
Brgy. Dambo, Pangil
Min. Bid Price: P 906,120

LV-12 - Vacant lot
LA 131 sqm
Lot 18 Block 4 Villa Adelina III Phase I
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 128,000

LV-13 - Vacant lot
LA 134 sqm
Lot 20 Block 4 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 128,800

LV-14 - Vacant lot
LA 134 sqm
Lot 19 Block 4 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 128,800

LV-15 - Vacant lot
LA 134 sqm
Lot 21 Block 4 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 128,800

LV-16 - Vacant lot
LA 186 sqm
Lot 22 Block 4 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 179,200

LV-17 - Vacant lot
LA 273 sqm
Lot 23 Block 4 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 328,000

LV-18 - Vacant lot
LA 144 sqm
Lot 3 Block 5 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 163,500

LV-19 - Vacant lot
LA 147 sqm
Lot 5 Block 5 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 181,913

LV-20 - Vacant lot
LA 120 sqm
Lot 4 Block 8 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 108,000

LV-21 - Vacant lot
LA 120 sqm
Lot 6 Block 8 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 108,000

LV-23 - Vacant lot
LA 227 sqm
Lot 21 Block 8 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 255,375

LV-24 - Vacant lot
LA 675.99 sqm
Lot 22 Block 8 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 540,792

LV-25 - Vacant lot
LA 185.61 sqm
Lot 23 Block 8 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 183,600

LV-26 - Vacant lot
LA 176.34 sqm
Lot 24 Block 8 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 210,600

LV-27 - Vacant lot
LA 159.64 sqm
Lot 25 Block 8 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 241,200

LV-28 - Vacant lot
LA 180 sqm
L9 B2, Jamaica Hills Subd., Bambang
Los Baños
Min. Bid Price: P 540,000

LV-29 - Vacant lot
LA 180 sqm
Main Road, Jamaica Hills Subd., Bambang, Los Baños
Min. Bid Price: P 532,800

LV-30 - Vacant lot
LA 390 sqm
Lot 6 Block 2 Springdale Subd., Tadiac
Los Baños
Min. Bid Price: P 1,248,000

LV-116 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 13 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
Min. Bid Price: P 318,000

LV-117 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 14 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
Min. Bid Price: P 318,000

LV-118 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 15 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
Min. Bid Price: P 318,000

LV-119 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 16 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
Min. Bid Price: P 318,000

LV-120 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 17 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
Min. Bid Price: P 318,000

LV-121 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 18 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
Min. Bid Price: P 318,000

LV-122 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 19 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
Min. Bid Price: P 318,000

LV-123 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 20 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
Min. Bid Price: P 318,000

LV-124 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 21 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
Min. Bid Price: P 318,000

LV-125 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 22 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
Min. Bid Price: P 318,000

LV-126 – Vacant lot
LA 160 sqm
Lot 23 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
Min. Bid Price: P 410,000

LV-127 - Vacant lot
LA 160 sqm
Lot 24 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
Min. Bid Price: P 410,000

LV-128 - Vacant lot
LA 127 sqm
49 Balagtas St., Sta. Clara Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 254,000

LV-129 - Vacant lot
LA 774 sqm
Along Provincial Highway, Brgy. San Antonio, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 800,000

BATANGAS

BL-4 - Lot with improvement
LA 4,000 sqm FA 268 sqm
Bungalow type residential bldg. (4 BR & 3 TB)
Brgy. Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 5,085,200

BL-5 - Lot with improvement (2 adjacent lots)
LA 735 sqm FA 227 sqm
Residential building (1BR/1TB)
Interior Kap. Simeon Luz St., Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 2,806,809

BL-6 - Lot with improvement
LA 1,440 sqm FA 872 sqm
One-storey school building
Miracle Heights Subd., Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 8,900,000

BL-7 - Lot with improvement
LA 442.5 FA 246.5 sqm
Split level residential building (7BR/ 3TB)
San Sebastian Subd., Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 2,100,000

BL-8 - Lot with improvement
LA 546 sqm FA 144 sqm
Bungalow residential building (3BR/ 2TB)
Sta. Clara cor. St. Therese Sts., Mabini Homes, Mataas na Lupa, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 2,100,000

BL-10 - Lot with improvement
LA 194.20 sqm FA 266 sqm
2-storey/ residential bldg and 1-storey bldg annex (7BR/3TB)
204 P. Torres St., Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 3,350,000

BL-11 - Lot with improvement
LA 725 sqm FA 210 sqm
Office and car display building
National Road, Maraouy, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 5,400,000

BL-13 - Lot with improvement
LA 2,343 sqm (total contiguous lots)
With one-storey residential building
Doña Aurora/ Adelfa Sts., City Park Subdivision, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 7,750,000

BL-15 - Lot with improvement
LA 324 sqm FA 306 sqm
Factory building
Gloria Compound Subd., Tanauan
Min. Bid Price: P 1,485,000

BL-18 - Lot with improvement
LA 403 sqm FA 163.4 sqm
3 storey residential building
Lot 1 Blk. 58 Lodgepool St., Phase 1 Brgy. San Gregorio, Laurel
Min. Bid Price: P 3,281,000

BL-19 - Lot with improvement
LA 358 sqm FA 276.4
2 storey bldg
Lot 36 Blk. 49 Dipper St., Phase 2 Brgy. San Gregorio Laurel
Min. Bid Price: P 3,700,000

BL-21 - Lot with improvement
LA 735 sqm
Ice plant/ cold storage warehouse
Poblacion 1, Sto. Tomas
Min. Bid Price: P 3,020,000

BL-22 - Lot with improvement
LA 484 sqm FA 362 sqm
Warehouse Bldg
Brgy. Alangilan
Min. Bid Price: P 1,261,000

BV-119 - Vacant lot
LA 312 sqm
Lot 20 Blk 7 Mount View Park Subd., Cuta
Min. Bid Price: P 1,248,000

BV-120 - Vacant lot
LA 331 sqm
Lot 21 Blk. 7 Mount View Park Subd., Cuta
Min. Bid Price: P 1,324,000

BV-1 - Vacant lot
LA 6,666 sqm
Commercial lot
Brgy. Puting Bato West, Calaca
Min. Bid Price: P 5,400,000

BV-8 - Vacant lot
LA 67,500 sqm
Interior agricultural land
Bo. Kayrilao (Brgy. Latag), Nasugbu
Min. Bid Price: P 250,000

BV-9 - Vacant lot
LA 452 sqm
Commercial lot
Gualberto Avenue, Poblacion, Rosario
Min. Bid Price: P 4,900,000

BV-10 - Vacant lot
LA 2,009 sqm
Provincial Road, Brgy Namuco, Rosario
Min. Bid Price: P 2,998,000

BV-13 - Vacant lot
LA 129 sqm
Lot 8 Block 7 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 258,000

BV-14 - Vacant lot
LA 129 sqm
Lot 9 Block 7 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 258,000

BV-15 - Vacant lot
LA 129 sqm
Lot 10 Block 7 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 258,000

BV-16 - Vacant lot
LA 308 sqm
Lot 15 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 616,000

BV-17 - Vacant lot
LA 167 sqm
Lot 16 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 334,00

BV-18 - Vacant lot
LA 178 sqm
Lot 19 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 356,000

BV-19 - Vacant lot
LA 239 sqm
Lot 20 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 478,000

BV-20 - Vacant lot
LA 225 sqm
Lot 21 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 450,000

BV-21 - Vacant lot
LA 208 sqm
Lot 22 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 416,000

BV-22 - Vacant lot
LA 153 sqm
Lot 23 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 306,000

BV-23 - Vacant lot
LA 182 sqm
Lot 24 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 364,000

BV-24 - Vacant lot
LA 240 sqm
Lot 25 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 480,000

BV-25 - Vacant lot
LA 378 sqm
Lot 26 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 756,000

BV-26 - Vacant lot
LA 120 sqm
Lot 18 Block 8 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 240,000

BV-27 - Vacant lot
LA 120 sqm
Lot 19 Block 8 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 240,000

BV-29 - Vacant lot
LA 81 sqm
Lot 15 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 162,000

BV-30a - Vacant lot
LA 81 sqm
Lot 16 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 162,000

BV-30b - Vacant lot
LA 81 sqm
Lot 17 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 162,000

BV-30c - Vacant lot
LA 30 sqm
Lot 19 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 60,000

BV-35 - Vacant lot
LA 64 sqm
Lot 18 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 128,000

QUEZON

QL-2 - Lot with improvement
LA 39,062 sqm
Lofty-type warehouse/ office buildings
Brgy. Mayabobo & Masalacot 3, Candelaria
Min. Bid Price: P 6,027,225

QL-3 - Lot with improvement
LA 2,000 sqm FA 276 sqm
Bungalow residential building & warehouse-type rice mill buildings
National Road, Brgy. Malabanban, Candelaria
Min. Bid Price: P 5,434,200

QL-8 - Lot with improvement
LA 180 sqm FA 154 sqm
Bungalow residential building (4BR/2TB)
67 Australia St., Better Living Subd., Iyam, Lucena City
Min. Bid Price: P 707,750

QL-9 - Lot with improvement
LA 125 sqm FA 143 sqm
2-storey residential building (4BR/3TB)
Stephen Compound, Brgy. Iyam, Lucena City
Min. Bid Price: P 712,500

QL-10 - Lot with improvement
LA 1,540 sqm FA 70 sqm
One-storey residential building
Cattleya St., Stephen Compound, Brgy. Iyam, Lucena City
Min. Bid Price: P 3,335,360

QL-12 - Lot with improvement
LA 159 sqm FA 127 sqm
Bungalow residential building (3BR/ 2TB)
Lovely Village, Bo. Wakas, Tayabas
Min. Bid Price: P 1,032,000

QL-13 - Lot with improvement
LA 360 sqm FA 600 sqm
Two-storey residential bldg. w/ roofdeck and basement
Provincial Road, Gibanga Sariaya
Min. Bid Price: P 3,587,000

QV-1 - Vacant lot
LA 6,485 sqm
Brgy. Malabanban Norte, Candelaria
Min. Bid Price: P 1,459,262

QV-3 - Vacant lot
LA 20,150 sqm
Brgy. Bulakin, Dolores
Min. Bid Price: P 3,778,125

QV-4 - Vacant lot
LA 7,732 sqm
Brgy. Domoit, Lucena City
Min. Bid Price: P 6,186,240

QV-5 - Vacant lot
LA 546 sqm
St. Peter Subd., Gulang-Gulang, Lucena City
Min. Bid Price: P 819,000

QV-7 - Vacant lot
LA 1,400 sqm
Provincial Road, Gulang-Gulang, Lucena City
Min. Bid Price: P 6,720,000

QV-10 - Vacant lot
LA 2,096 sqm
Bo. Iyam, Lucena City
Min. Bid Price: P 1,512,000

QV-11 - Vacant lot
LA 216 sqm
HL Briones Subd., Bucal, Pagbilao
Min. Bid Price: P 100,000

QV-12 - Vacant lot
LA 3,740 sqm
Brgy. Tumabaga, Sariaya
Min. Bid Price: P 420,750

QV-13 - Vacant lot
LA 480 sqm
Mansayon St., San Francisco District
Lucena City
Min. Bid Price: P 588,000

ANTIPOLO

PARK-AV-1 - Vacant Lot
LA 446 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd. TCT No.R-1717
Block 13 Lot 7, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 481,680

PARK-AV-2 - Vacant Lot
LA 493 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1724
Block 13 Lot 3, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 532,440

PARK-AV-3 - Vacant Lot
LA 365 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1725
Block 13 Lot 4, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 438,000

PARK-AV-5 - Vacant Lot
LA 404 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1727
Block 13 Lot 6, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 484,800

PARK-AV-6 - Vacant Lot
LA 399 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1728
Block 13 Lot 8, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 478,800

PARK-AV-7 - Vacant Lot
LA 476 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1729
Block 13 Lot 9, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 514,080

PARK-AV-8 - Vacant Lot
LA 407 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1731
Block 13 Lot 11, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 488,400

PARK-AV-9 - Vacant Lot
LA 413 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1732
Block 13 Lot 12, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 495,600

PARK-AV-10 - Vacant Lot
LA 421 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1733
Block 13 Lot 13, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 454,680

PARK-AV-11 - Vacant Lot
LA 414 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1734
Block 13 Lot 14, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 496,800

PARK-AV-12 - Vacant Lot
LA 419 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1735
Block 13 Lot 15, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 452,520

PARK-AV-13 - Vacant Lot
LA 415 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1736
Block 13 Lot 16, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 497,400

PARK-AV-14 - Vacant Lot
LA 412 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1737
Block 13 Lot 17, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 494,400

PARK-AV-15 - Vacant Lot
LA 406 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1737
Block 13 Lot 18, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 487,200

PARK-AV-16 - Vacant Lot
LA 401 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1739
Block 13 Lot 19, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 481,200

PARK-AV-17 - Vacant Lot
LA 425 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1740
Block 13 Lot 20, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 510,000

PARK-AV-18 - Vacant Lot
LA 409 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1741
Block 13 Lot 21, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 490,800

PARK-AV-19 - Vacant Lot
LA 465 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1742
Block 13 Lot 22, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 558,000

PARK-AV-20 - Vacant Lot
LA 403 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1743
Block 13 Lot 23, Parkridge Estates
Min. Bid Price: P 483,600

CAVITE

MANGO ORCHARD, NAIC

MANGO-CV-1 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 2,649 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956720
Block 1 Lot 8
Min. Bid Price: P 1,059,600

MANGO-CV-2 - Farm Lot (Corner Lot)
LA 1,358 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956719
Block 1 Lot 12
Min. Bid Price: P 543,200

MANGO-CV-3 - Farm Lot (Corner Lot)
LA 1,296 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956751
Block 4 Lot 15
Min. Bid Price: P 622,080

MANGO-CV-4 - Farm Lot (Corner Lot)
LA 1,423 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956750
Block 5 Lot 16
Min. Bid Price: P 683,040

MANGO-CV-5 – Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,770 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956749
Block 6 Lot 2
Min. Bid Price: P 708,000

MANGO-CV-6 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 2,688 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956748
Block 6 Lot 3
Min. Bid Price: P 1,075,200

MANGO-CV-7 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 2,868 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956747
Block 6 Lot 6
Min. Bid Price: P 1,032,480

MANGO-CV-8 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 2,733 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956746
Block 6 Lot 7
Min. Bid Price: P 983,880

MANGO-CV-9 - Farm Lot (Corner Lot)
LA 1,856 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956745
Block 8 Lot 2
Min. Bid Price: P 890,880

MANGO-CV-10 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,267sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956744
Block 9 Lot 15-A
Min. Bid Price: P 506,800

MANGO-CV-11 - Farm Lot
LA 1,327 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956743
Block 10 Lot 2
Min. Bid Price: P 530,800

MANGO-CV-12 - Farm Lot
LA 3,243 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956742
Block 20 Lot 2
Min. Bid Price: P 1,297,200

MANGO-CV-13 - Farm Lot
LA 1,322 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956741
Block 20 Lot 19
Min. Bid Price: P 475,920

MANGO-CV-14 - Farm Lot (Corner Lot)
LA 1,607 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956740
Block 26 Lot 19
Min. Bid Price: P 771,360

MANGO-CV-15 - Farm Lot (Corner Lot)
LA 1,399 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956739
Block 28 Lot 2
Min. Bid Price: P 671,520

MANGO-CV-16 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,032 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956738
Block 28 Lot 10
Min. Bid Price: P 371,520

MANGO-CV-17 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,050 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956737
Block 28-A Lot 4
Min. Bid Price: P 378,000

MANGO-CV-18 - Farm Lot
LA 1,050 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956736
Block 28-A Lot 6
Min. Bid Price: P 378,000

MANGO-CV-19 - Farm Lot (Center Lot)
LA 1,031 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956735
Block 28-A Lot 9
Min. Bid Price: P 412,400

MANGO-CV-20 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,045 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956734
Block 28-A Lot 8
Min. Bid Price: P 418,000

MANGO-CV-21 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,106 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956733
Block 31 Lot 23
Min. Bid Price: P 398,160

MANGO-CV-22 - Farm Lot (Corner Lot)
LA 1,673 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956732
Block 33 Lot 6
Min. Bid Price: P 669,200

MANGO-CV-23 - Farm Lot (Corner Lot)
LA 1,622 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956731
Block 34 Lot 2
Min. Bid Price: P 648,800

MANGO-CV-24 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,690 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956730
Block 35 Lot 1
Min. Bid Price: P 608,400

MANGO-CV-25 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,896 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956729
Block 35 Lot 11
Min. Bid Price: P 682,560

MANGO-CV-26 - Farm Lot (Corner Lot)
LA 1,822 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956728
Block 35 Lot 25
Min. Bid Price: P 655,920

MANGO-CV-27 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,359 sqm
Best used as residential w ith agricultural farm development TCT No.956727
Block 36 Lot 3
Min. Bid Price: P 489,240

MANGO-CV-28 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,125 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956726
Block 37 Lot 1
Min. Bid Price: P 405,000

MANGO-CV-29 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,719 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956725
Block 37 Lot 7
Min. Bid Price: P 618,840

MANGO-CV-30 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,689 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956724
Block 37 Lot 14
Min. Bid Price: P 608,040

MANGO-CV-31 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,050 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956723
Block 37-A Lot 26
Min. Bid Price: P 378,000

MANGO-CV-32 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,511 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956722
Block 37-A Lot 31
Min. Bid Price: P 543,960

MANGO-CV-33 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,103 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956721
Block 38 Lot 4
Min. Bid Price: P 397,080

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FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

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MILF pursues abductors of teenager

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION Front (MILF) has deployed its forces in Basilan to pursue armed men who kidnapped the deaf-mute daughter of the president of a state-run university in Zamboanga City.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu warned the kidnappers to release their captive without ransom, saying members of the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group (Ahjag) were trying to pinpoint their exact location.

Ahjag was formed to help the government go after lawless elements in Mindanao.

"The victim was brought in Basilan. We are helping the police and military. Our troops are ready. We intend to repeat what we have done in previous rescue operations," Kabalu told the INQUIRER.

He said his group was "working closely with government security forces. Our forces are now hunting the kidnappers."

Grace, 19, daughter of Western Mindanao State University president Dr. Eldigario Gonzales, was walking inside Aurora Village in Barangay Guiwan in Zamboanga City when snatched on July 30.

Kabalu said his group had received reports that the kidnappers were asking for P40 million in exchange for the girl's freedom.

Military reports tagged Nur Jamiri as the alleged leader of the kidnappers, said to be linked with the Abu Sayyaf.

Since the signing of the terms of reference of the Ahjag in December 2004, the MILF and government have succeeded in securing the safe release of several kidnap victims in Mindanao.

Last month, the MILF rescued Henry de Guzman, a worker of a World Bank-funded project in Lanao del Norte, a day after he was abducted.

In May, MILF rebels raided the hideout of a group of kidnappers and rescued a 9-year-old victim in Tipo-tipo, Basilan.

The MILF has been negotiating a peace agreement with the government.

Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

DURIAN TIME
The durian season starts just in time for the Kadayawan sa Dabaw celebration.
BING GONZALES/INQUIRER MINDANAO

The truth is out about the Automated Counting Machines

They should be put to use in the 2007 elections

Recent events have cleared up disputed facts about the purchase of automated counting machines by the Commission on Elections in (when):

1. The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) had certified the Automated Counting Machines (ACMs) as 100-percent accurate—prior to the contract award.

■ Not one but two intensive DOST tests on the automated counting machines (ACMs) yielded 100-percent accuracy ratings ***for all three environmental conditions—cold, normal and harsh.***

The test results formed the initial DOST Report of 14 April 2003. Subsequently, on 24 October 2003, Executive Director Rolando Viloria of the DOST-Metals Industry Research and Development Center and concurrent Chairman of the DOST-Technical Evaluation Committee, wrote:

"Certainly, the verification test would show that the machine is 100% accurate in reading and counting the votes that are properly shaded, provided that the ballots are fed with the right orientation. Hence, we can safely conclude that the machine has a 100% accuracy rating on all environmental conditions."

The DOST reaffirmed this finding during hearings to clear up the question that were conducted by the Office of the Ombudsman.

2. There was NO OVERPRICING of the ACMs.

■ Allegations of overpricing are baseless—considering that industry experts themselves had determined the cost parameters after ***a series of consultations*** with the stakeholders. In fact NAMFREL, the quick-count civic organization, agreed that the price estimate the experts arrived at was reasonable.

■ Claims of overpricing of the ACMs by the Administration's political opponents—who resist its effort to speed up and keep inviolate the canvassing of the vote—focused narrowly on the cost of the ACM machines (the hardware) but ***neglected*** to account for the cost of the counting, canvassing and consolidation software, which are proprietary and developed at great cost by their copyright holders.

3. It was private-sector experts from the information technology industry who determined principally the agency budget estimate for the purchase of the automated counting machines.

■ It has become clear that private-sector experts were the driving force in setting the budget estimate for the purchase of the ACMs. The participation of the Commission on Elections was limited to initiating consultations with some of the most eminent experts and leading lights of the Philippine information technology industry. The price estimate that the Comelec adopted eventually ***was the recommendation of these experts*** from the information technology sector.

■ The private-sector experts determined the budget ceiling of P900 million for hardware and P400 million for software and related services for a grand total of P1.3 billion. This decision was reached at the 16th meeting, in April 2002, of the COMELEC and the Private Sector Technical Procurement Planning and Investment Analysis Committees for the Automation of the May 10, 2004 Presidential and Local Elections.

4. The opposition to the use of the ACMs in the 2007 elections is based on an argument that is unclear and suspect.

■ In the proceedings before the Ombudsman, the complainants failed consistently to appear. In fact, they attended only one of several hearings called by the Office of the Ombudsman.

■ On 30 June 2006, the Office of the Ombudsman released its initial report on its investigation into the ACM procurement contract. Between June 20 and August 10, complainant Kilosbayan—despite receiving due notice of every hearing—appeared only once. Complainant Senator Aquilino Pimentel did not at all appear— except at the first hearing, through his counsel.

■ The Office of the Ombudsman recently noted that the complainants—whose unsubstantiated allegations had set off the investigation—"have been publicly airing their concerns about the voided COMELEC and Mega Pacific Contract; yet they refuse to make the same under oath."

Against all the tenets of justice and fair play, the complainants have chosen to bring their case to the media—ignoring the rule of law, which requires them to substantiate their claims by competent evidence—or failing that—to keep their mouths shut!

Now that the truth is out, we demand:

— That the cases before the Ombudsman be resolved with dispatch.

— That the ACMs be used in the 2007 elections to save the nation billions of taxpayer's money; any new appropriation by Congress will be a waste of public funds.

Paid for by: Atty. Redemberto R. Villanueva
RRV Legal Consultancy, Penthouse, CC Castro Bldg.
Timog Ave., Quezon City

Sayyaf bandit slain in raid in Maguindanao

CAMP SIONGCO, MAGUINDANAO—GOVERNMENT forces killed a suspected Abu Sayyaf bandit and captured three others in a raid on the group's hideout in Sultan Kudarat town in Maguindanao on Saturday morning.

Lt. Col. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, told the INQUIRER that Ibrahim Salem was killed in a 20-minute clash with soldiers of the 37th Infantry Battalion in Barangay Senditan at around 5 a.m.

Three other suspected bandits—Onting Dawa, Akmad Dalungan and Inog Dema—were captured by soldiers led by Lt. Col. Eduardo Colliado, Ando added.

The suspects were allegedly connected with the Abu Sufia, a breakaway faction of the Pentagon kidnap gang led by Tahir Alonto and the late Faisal Marohombsar, he said.

The Pentagon was behind the abduction in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat of Korean Jae-Kwon-yoon and his Filipino business partner Carlos Belonio in February 2004. The victims were held for four months and brought to different areas in Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao.

"We don't know if they were also planning to carry out bombings. We are still conducting follow up operation within the vicinity. During the raid, over 12 of them were inside their hideout," Ando said.

The military earlier placed the entire region on high alert following reports that terror groups will carry out a series of attacks in key cities of Mindanao. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

Lapus: Teachers not obliged to use English in school

BAGUIO CITY—EDUCATION SECRETARY Jesli Lapus said teachers were not obliged to use English to communicate in the classroom.

Lapus' declaration appeared to clash with House Bill No. 4701, which seeks to replace a bilingual teaching policy for elementary and high schools with English as a medium of instruction.

He assured advocates of bilingual education that the government classifies English as a "second language."

"A teacher is a teacher and her job is to make the pupil understand his lessons," he said after he opened this year's national student leadership congress on Thursday.

He said he was running the Department of Education as a corporation and that teachers must now assume the role of administrators.

Being effective is the primary goal of teaching and they must use whatever tool is handy, including local dialects, to communicate their subject matters, he added.

Lapus said learning two basic languages in school is confusing for pupils, citing studies made by the government.

Malacañang is concerned about the deterioration of English proficiency in the country, in the light of the growth of outsourcing industries like call centers, he said.

"We are globalizing," Lapus said, noting that English was a necessity because it had remained the world's business language.

He said Filipino and several of the country's local languages did not use words necessary in accounting or basic mathematics to transact business.

Filipinos still use their English equivalents, he said, which is an argument against another advocacy for the use of Filipino as the teaching medium. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Reyes: 'Green' crusader or on campaign trail?

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—EVerything about Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes on Thursday looked more like a politician on a campaign trail than someone on a green crusade.

Reyes cracked jokes, sported his characteristic grin, sang, danced, gave away raffle prizes, and tagged along three show biz talents for the launch of his project, the Green Philippines Highway, in Central Luzon.

His remarks before a fully packed gym at the University of the Assumption, filled with about 5,000 people, mostly students, took no longer than 10 minutes.

"Failure is not an option. Let us unite in a noble cause of protecting Mother Earth," the former Armed Forces chief of staff said, emphasizing the message by gesturing with his right hand.

And the show began. Reyes gave a peck on his wife Teresita's cheek. The crowd, tickled by the display of romantic affection, responded with a "Reyes cheer" taught them at the start of the program. That meant clapping thrice, thumping the feet twice and then shouting, "Yes!"

Declining the request for him to sing, he called on his wife to do the part. Teresita, a Kapampangan from Minalin town, crooned the folk song "Atin Ku Pung Singsing" on perfect notes.

The secretary took the mike and exclaimed: "Welcome to my concert."

"There are more good singers after me. I promised to sing 10 songs only," he said. The audience roared.

After "Wonderful World," he dished out "Breaking My Heart," which turned out to be more popular with the younger crowd.

Then, the emcees called in a young girl, PopStar Kids finalist Rita Iringan, who sang three songs. But it was Kyla, the rhythm and blue princess, who got the audience shrieking.

On the third song, "Impossible Dream," she got Reyes for a duet.

Laughter filled the gym when comedienne Giselle Sanchez, complete with her sexy getup, got him singing the old ditty "Diana."

In between making other Department of Environment and Natural Resources officials do their stuff on stage, Sanchez pitched in for Reyes' project.

The program lasted three hours, ending at noon. Of that time, an hour was spent in explaining what the project was all about.

The project seeks to plant five million trees along 3,439.5 km of roads from Luzon to Mindanao. The goal: To improve the air quality in the country.

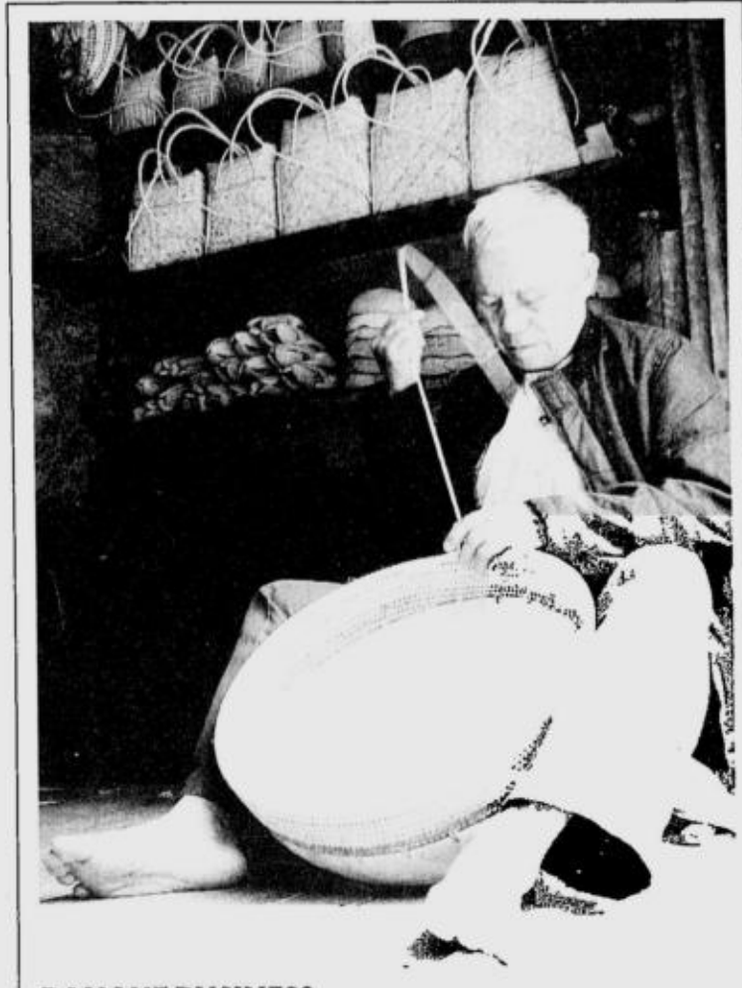
Simultaneous massive tree-planting is scheduled on Aug. 25 at 10 a.m., with President Macapagal-Arroyo leading it at Km Zero at the Rizal Park.

Was he already campaigning for the Senate? Reyes quickly said: "No, no, no."

"As I said, this campaign is to enhance the environment. There's nothing political here. [The environment] is a nonpolitical, nonpartisan issue."

Asked why he had to dance and sing for the crowd, Reyes said: "People are assembled here for the cause of the environment. When you're with a group, and you're rallying them to a crusade, to a cause and the particular cause here is the environment, then they've got to be in a state of high spirits."

"You have to liven them up, encourage them that this is a worthy cause and that's what it's all about," he said. "We want them to hear the message and I think they got the message and then go home encouraged and inspired to carry on with the project."



BANAUE BUSINESS
Patience is the virtue this old man of Banaue has developed in weaving a rattan basket, one of the many products commonly traded in Ifugao. EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Stop 'anarchy' in Davao mines, DENR urged

DAVAO CITY—A FILIPINO-OWNED and managed mining corporation urged Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes to intervene in and end the alleged anarchy inside a 20-hectare mining camp in Banaybanay, Davao Oriental.

In a letter, Heritage Resources and Development Corp. (HRDC) chair Alexander Benedicto appealed to Reyes to order all government agencies and the provincial government to investigate and disarm about 100 men claiming to be members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) who forcibly took over the mining camp on July 21.

Benedicto also said a group of armed men believed to be members of the New People's Army (NPA) raided the mining camp on April 25 and burned several equipment.

He said about P25 million worth of HRDC revenues were lost to the MILF's illegal entry and the NPA raid. The company was forced to stop operations, affecting 300 workers and five barangays.

Benedicto said his firm was forced to bring the matter to Reyes because Gov. Elena Palma Gil had not acted on its request for investigation of the NPA raid and the entry of MILF forces on July 21.

Benedicto said the NPA raid resulted in another problem, this time involving Albay Rice Mill, HRDC's financier, which ordered the ship filled with 1,600 metric tons of chromite ore worth P500,000 to depart without a written consent from HRDC on April 28.

HRDC also urged Reyes to investigate the alleged illegal shipment of Albay Rice Mill of the 1,600 MT of chromite ore.

HRDC, together with a certain Paulino Pabunay and Kauswagan Cooperative, entered into a five-year contract with Albay Rice Mill over the mining operation in the area starting this year until 2011.

Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Director Edilberto Arreza said HRDC had acquired huge payables to its workers since its financier left, taking away the chromite shipment.

Arreza said the situation had angered the HRDC workers and its suppliers.

Benedicto said the problem worsened when a group known as RAM Aggregates and Construction entered HRDC's mining area.

RAM is owned and managed by Ronaldo Matias Mangosong, a board member of Asingan, Pangasinan, he said.

Benedicto said the company illegally took over the HRDC mining camp, ejected its security guards and staff, and took possession of its buildings, bunkhouses and facilities on July 21 with the use of 100 alleged MILF members.

He said HRDC had 2,000 MT of chromite ore as new stocks, but it could sell these since, aside from the presence of the armed groups, the MGB had recalled HRDC's ore transfer permit (OTP).

Arreza said he recalled HRDC's permit for the following reasons: security, the ore left are new stocks, and the MGB wanted HRDC and Albay Rice Mill to settle their internal problem.

Arreza also said Palma Gil had issued a stoppage order to HRDC before the NPA raided its mining camp.

Benedicto said HRDC started the mining operation with a capital of P25 million capital. *Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cop, bystander die in Bulacan attack

STA. MARIA, BULACAN—A POliceman and a man were shot and killed by three men shot them in Barangay Poblacion here on Saturday night, police said.

Provincial police intelligence and investigation chief Supt. Sheldon Jacaban said PO3 Roberto de la Cruz, 37, was on his way to the shop of a videoke machine distributor when he was attacked at 6:15 p.m.

Rigor Buenviaje, 29, who was in the area, was hit by a stray bullet and died, Jacaban said.

Police reports said the gunmen were members of the Socialist Revolutionary Movement (SRM) operating in Bulacan.

Jacaban said two suspects, who were riding on a motorcycle, blocked De la Cruz's path.

Reports said De la Cruz tried to grab the gun of one of the attackers, but it jammed. The other man and their lookout shot him.

Carmela Reyes with a report from Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

ROUNDUP

RP to host global forum on liberty

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Supreme Court will host in October in Manila the "Global Forum on Liberty and Prosperity" that will gather the chief justices in America, Europe, Africa and Asia, Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban said here on Wednesday. Leaders of civil societies and heads of business chambers abroad are also expected in the forum scheduled on Oct. 18-20, Panganiban said. The forum, he added, was an offshoot of his lecture series in Washington, Madrid and Paris since June. His lectures discussed the role of the judiciary as "guardian" of liberty and prosperity. Panganiban was here during rites adopting him as a son of this Pampanga's capital. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Tornado hits Zambales town

IBA, Zambales—A tornado hit one of the seaside villages in Sta. Cruz town on Friday night, destroying a piggery and a house. No one was reported hurt in the tornado that struck Barangay Naulo at about 10 p.m. Trees along the tornado's path were toppled, while several houses were damaged, reports from the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council said. *Cesar Villa, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Ifugao man dies of meningo

BAGUIO CITY—A 23-year-old man from Hingyon, Ifugao, died on Aug. 9 from a disease doctors here suspected to be meningococcemia, a government doctor confirmed on Wednesday. The man died three days after he was taken to the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center from the Ifugao Provincial Hospital. Dr. Antonio Bautista of the Department of Health team tasked to monitor meningococcemia cases in the Cordillera, said the victim had no history of travel to Baguio, which had been "case free for the last two to three months." This is Ifugao's only fatality of meningococcemia-like case for the year. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Cotabato volunteer teachers get pay hike

COTABATO CITY—To cope with the high cost of living, some schools in North Cotabato will receive a P1,500 increase in monthly pay, starting August. The additional compensation was approved by the provincial board in acting on a request by Gov. Manny Piñol for a P2-million appropriation. Vice Gov. Jesus Sacdalan noted that the volunteers, known as the "Magtutudlo sa Barangay," had been receiving a take-home pay of only P3,000 each every month although they had been painstakingly extending their services to remote villages of the province since 2002. *Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

P4M worth of used clothes seized in Subic

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Personnel of the Bureau of Customs and the antismuggling task force recently seized at least 1,000 bundles of assorted used imported clothing worth P4 million. The used clothes, locally known as "ukay-ukay," were about to be taken out of the freeport on Aug. 7 by the California Waste and Rags Inc., a Subic-based company, when Customs and task force personnel stopped the five trucks carrying the items. Celso Templo, BoC deputy commissioner, said the company, which is owned by Liling Co, presented a one-year-old "notice of levy and attachment" showing that the goods had been ordered seized by a court in Olongapo City in favor of another company. *Allan Macatuno, Inquirer Central Luzon*

No sanitary landfills for Taal

BATANGAS CITY—Eleven towns and two cities around Taal Lake were prohibited from converting their closed dumps into sanitary landfills because of a law declaring the lake a protected area. Jose Aguila, community development officer of the Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Office, said the prohibition was provided for by the National Integrated Protected Area System law, which safeguards Taal Lake. The communities could resort to the barangay material recovery facilities as an alternative to landfills as required by the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, he said. *Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

P2.59-B infra projects in 18 provinces

AGRARIAN reform beneficiaries in 18 provinces will soon enjoy greater economic opportunities as the government and the World Bank has poured in some P2.59 billion worth of infrastructure projects. Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman said in a news release that the projects cover 226 projects, such as farm-to-market roads and bridges, post-harvest and irrigation facilities, solar dryers and potable water supply systems. He said Isabela benefited most, having collared 51 of those projects. Misamis Oriental has 31 projects, Albay and Bataan, 21 each; Occidental Mindoro and Bohol, 13 each; Quezon II, 12; Zambales and Zamboanga del Norte, 10 each; Masbate and Negros Oriental, nine each; Batanes and Tarlac, six each and Davao del Norte, five. Pangandaman said 51 of those projects have been completed, 60 ongoing, 36 for implementation and 45 for bidding.

Southern Leyte high school tops achievement test

TACLOBAN CITY—A PUBLIC high school in a Southern Leyte town topped this year's National Achievement Test for the first year level.

What made the feat more remarkable was that the Rizal National High School, located in Tomas Oppus town, did not only dominate the diagnostic test in Eastern Visayas, but it also bested even schools in Metro Manila.

"We are, of course, proud of this achievement made by the Rizal National High School, which is bereft of many amenities enjoyed by other schools in the country," Rebecca Ragrag, regional information officer of the Department of Education, told the INQUIRER.

According to Ragrag, the school has an enrollment of only 197, 63 of them on the first level who all passed the NAT which was given in February last year. The school has nine teachers, with Margarito Badeo as officer in charge.

A total of 63,976 first year students in the region, coming from 374 public schools, took the NAT.

Ragrag attributed the academic achievement to the diligence of the teachers and students.

The Rizal National High School, with its 81.48 passing rate, helped push the Southern Leyte division to top the NAT for the first year level in the entire country. It garnered a 68.07 mean percentage score (MPS).

Ragrag said that for the past five years now, Eastern Visayas had been topping the NAT examinations. Aside from first year students, those in Grade 6 and in fourth year high school also took the diagnostic examinations.

The results of the two tests have yet to be released. *Joey A. Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas*

Donors give ₱7.7M in aid to Mayon evacuees

LEGAZPI CITY—A TOTAL OF P7.7 million in assistance from local government, nongovernment groups and private donors has been generated for evacuees since alert level 4 was raised over Mayon Volcano on Aug. 7, social welfare officials said yesterday.

Around 44 percent or P3.4 million was contributed by nongovernment, government organizations and private donors while augmentation funds from the Department of Social Welfare and Development-Region 5 amounted to P1.9 million.

Aid from donors in Albay and its municipalities reached P2.4 million.

DSWD officer Rosie Narvaez said tents, food packs and other items, such as towels, sleeping mats, blankets and flashlights had been distributed to the evacuees.

ASUNCION Castillo from Barangay Sta. Misericordia, Sto Domingo, Albay cooks noodles for her family and six others at the evacuation site. REM ZAMORA

Among the NGOs, government organizations and private donors who helped were the GMA Kapuso Foundation, World Vision, Plan Philippines, Makati, Unicef, Christian Children's Fund, ABS-CBN Foundation, Oxfam, Philippine National Red Cross, Bureau of Food and Aquatic Resources, ADRA, Digital Tel. Co. and Mercury Drug.

The Office of Civil Defense in Bicol said that as of 7 p.m. Saturday, 43,849 persons from 9,336 families were sheltered in 28 evacuation centers.

They represented 32 barangays from the three cities of Legazpi, Tabaco and Ligao and the municipalities of Daraga, Camalig, Malilipot, Sto. Domingo and Guinobatan.

Mayon had not generated any explosions over the past 24-hours, volcanologists said yesterday morning.

This did not suggest waning activity, however, as sulfur dioxide emission rate was still high at 8,634 tons per day and a significant number of 15 volcanic earthquakes and 253 tremor episodes were recorded, said the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs). *Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

2 docu films tell of Mindoro fight for environment

CITY OF CALAPAN—PEOPLE RESiding in and outside the province will find two documentary films about the island a source of pride, belongingness and inspiration, according to its supporters and viewers.

One of the films, "Wailing of Paradise," is a production about the care of the environment, culture and life of Mindoreños.

Directed by Fr. Romeo Villavicencio of the Communication for Evangelization and Development Center of the Apostolic Vicariate of Calapan and written by Fr. Edu Gariguez of the Alyansa Laban sa Mina (Alamin), "Wailing in Paradise" shows the strong opposition of the Mindoreños against mining activities by Crew Minerals and their united campaign in the face of the national government's insistence to allow mining in the province.

The second film, "Sa Dulo ng Paraiso," shows the richness and beauty of Bulalacao, one of the poorest towns of Oriental Mindoro.

Located in the southernmost tip of the province, Bulalacao is considered a paradise by its inhabitants.

Also directed by Villavicencio, it has three segments. One is on the remains of an old church recently discovered by archeologists, written by Sharon Isla.

Another is on the traditional farm practices of farmers, written by Jon Sarmiento, and the third is on the Hanunuo Mangyan, written by Donna Virola.

The films were shown on the opening day of the Moonrise Film Festival 2006, a festival of environment films, which ran on Aug. 19-20 at the Gateway Mall Cineplex in Cubao, Quezon City.

Villavicencio noted the huge turnout, mostly by those who came from Mindoro who learned about the film showing through text messages.

"Our hope is that they would go back to Mindoro and help in the development of Bulalacao, for example," Villavicencio said.

"Wailing in Paradise" was shown at the first Moonrise Film Festival last year, where it was given a citation for mining.

Bulalacao Mayor Neil Villas called on Mindoreños to remain vigilant and strong in their advocacy against mining and pledged the strong commitment of the League of Mayors to fight mining in the province.

"Please help us also develop the municipality of Bulalacao, which is still a fourth class municipality. It is a hidden treasure that is no longer hidden," said Villas.

In a short program that followed the film showing, Gariguez reminded the audience that the paradise being alluded to in the films was in real danger because of the mining threat.

He claimed that despite the strong opposition of the Mindoreños, Crew Minerals still insisted on entering the province.

"Just a few months before the last presidential election, it was again granted a mineral production and sharing agreement," said Gariguez. *Marciano T. Virola Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Nursing examinees must retake test – Gordon

By TJ Burgonio

AT FIRST, SEN. RICHARD GORDON wanted the head of Professional Regulation Commission Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero.

Now he wants the PRC to clean up its act and order examinees who benefited from the leak-tainted nursing board exams to undergo a partial retake of the tests.

"If you don't do something about it, everybody will be suspect," the senator said in an interview.

Gordon proposed the PRC order examinees, who had reviewed at the INRESS and R.A. Gapuz review centers, to retake the exams after it had been established at the Senate inquiry that they were given, during review classes, select sets of questions and answers that cropped up on exam day.

The subjects of the retake, he said, should be Sets III and V that dealt with medical-surgical and psychiatric nursing, respectively, where the alleged leaked questions and answers surfaced during the June 11 and 12 board exams.

"There [exists] a system whereby a student pays money to go to a review center, which in turn tries to bribe the examiners, which in turn is covered up by the PRC. This is in violation of the principle that sets the standards in examinations," Gordon, who filed the resolution seeking an inquiry into the leakage, said. "We must put a closure to this."

Examinees who did not review with either INRESS or Gapuz, but were later found to have gained from the leakage should also be asked to undergo a retake, the senator said.

"All of them should have a retake. This is not justice for the nurses. This is justice for the entire nursing profession, the government and the nation," he said.

Gordon's proposal came even as a group of nursing professionals awaited the Court of Appeals' ruling on its petition to invalidate the oath-taking of successful examinees late last week upon the approval of the PRC chair.

The League of Concerned Nurses and the Binuklod na Samahan ng mga Student Nurses had earlier secured a temporary restraining order from the appellate court to stop the scheduled oath-taking of the examinees tomorrow.

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Day care workers and the art of discipline

Child education training program launched

By DJ Yap

IMAGINE A ROOMFUL OF YOUNGsters. Some are hungry, others are crying, and a few are running around. Chaos can erupt the moment someone has a tantrum, or worse, a screaming fit.

It's a situation day care workers have to face every day. With corporal punishment no longer acceptable, does it have to be a no-win situation for them?

Thanks to "Lingap Bulilit," day care workers in Quezon City are undergoing training to equip them with skills for "gentle discipline."

The program—a two-year child education training program being jointly undertaken by Miriam College and the city government—is expected to benefit some 20,000 children in more than 200 day care centers, according to Miriam president Patricia Licuanan.

LINGAP Bulilit chair Dreena del Mundo (right) briefs day care workers in Quezon City on the training program. PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC

Weekly lectures

Every Saturday for the next several months, day care workers will attend lectures and workshops conducted by faculty members and volunteers from Miriam.

Among the topics are child development, childhood care and education, and family and values.

"Most day care workers are not equipped with the proper skills for teaching children. Some of them, especially those living in depressed areas, are actually volunteers who have had no training," said Veronica Villarin, program coordinator.

The training would help day care workers learn and develop techniques in dealing with children between three and six years old, she added.

"If a child throws a tantrum, for example, you don't just spank them or threaten them. You have to understand the behavior and take into consideration the age of these children," she said.

Gentle discipline

This is part of gentle discipline, added Villarin, who works with the community development program of the Institutional Network for Social Action.

The first year of the program shall deal with such topics as the developmental stages of children, gentle discipline, production of instructional materials and lesson planning.

"We deal with basic assumptions, so it's like a leveling off stage, since the teachers come from diverse backgrounds," Villarin said.

The second year would be an "extra challenge" because it would involve core values, gender education, peace and environment, and even media education, she added.

Lingap Bulilit chair Dreena del Mundo said about 60 volunteers from Miriam's Child Study Center and Child Development and Education Department agreed to take part in the program.

"Most of them are experienced in giving teacher-training seminars. There are also volunteer graduate students who joined us," she said.

She explained that the program was an offshoot of an outreach program for day care workers that Miriam started last year in five urban poor communities.

When Tess Mariano, head of Quezon City's social services development department, learned about the project, she suggested that it be expanded to cover the entire city.

Miriam College, represented by Licuanan, signed a memorandum of agreement with the Quezon City government, represented by Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., for the project.

Sonia Abila-Astudillo, one of the participants, said the training sessions would help them better understand the stages children go through, and learn how best to respond to them.

Coping with challenges

She takes care of 80 children in morning and afternoon shifts at the day care center in Veterans Village, Project 7. "It's a depressed area so there are children who come to school without having any breakfast. We feed them porridge or noodles," she said, adding that the day care facility has a feeding program for malnourished kids.

"There are kids whose behavior you'd never expect. Some children already use curse words in their conversations. Others often throw tantrums," Astudillo added.

Volunteer mentor Mary Grace Eugenio, a University of the Philippines graduate who works at Miriam's nursery school, said she hopes to teach participants creative ways of responding to childish behavior.

She admitted there might be a huge disparity in the backgrounds of children she teaches at Miriam and those in day care centers. For instance, each of her wards at Miriam has access to a computer. They also have a playground and a wide assortment of art materials. "That's probably something children in a public day care center won't have," she added.

"But at the end of the day, they're still kids. They all go through the same stages. There will always be those who are *malikot* (frisky) or *makulit* (persistent)," she said.

Eugenio, however, hopes that through the training program, day care workers will be equipped with the skills necessary to spare the rod without spoiling the child.

QC DAY care workers go over some instructional materials for their students with teachers of Miriam College.

THE DAY care workers are also introduced to activities which would help keep their students occupied and therefore less likely to misbehave.

Bank employees swap money-counting machines for brooms

By Tina G. Santos

A PORTION OF MANILA BAY WAS cleared of garbage as hundreds of bank employees turned into trash pickers for a few hours on Saturday.

Wielding cleaning tools such as brooms, shovels and rakes, the volunteers cleaned up the coastal area, particularly the bayside stretch near the United States Embassy, of garbage.

The volunteers, employees of Landbank, launched the one-day cleanup drive as part of the bank's celebration of its 43rd anniversary.

"We have been doing this for the past three years now as part of our social responsibility," said Alfonso Cruz, the government bank's senior executive vice president. "This is to fortify our commitment to protecting the environment, particularly the Manila Bay area."

Cruz, meanwhile, encouraged other establishments in the area to do their share in preserving the bay which is now a major destination for both local and foreign tourists.

Garbage trucks were also in the area to help scoop up the refuse that marred the coastline.

In an earlier interview, Rafael Borromeo, chief of the City of Manila's Department of Public Safety, said that the city government has been cleaning the bay on a regular basis.

He added that the city's geographical location at the mouth of the Pasig River has turned it into a catch basin for garbage.

"Unfortunately, we are the catch basin. Manila is a low-lying area and trash from other cities accumulate here," he said, referring to the garbage that flows into the city through various creeks and waterways.

Shaman helps people care for their souls

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

THE IMAGES OF WAR AND DESTRUCtion flashed before him. They weighed heavily upon him and Bong wept. The acquaintance before him—who had asked to be connected to his father who had died in the Battle of Manila in 1945—was startled.

"Your father gave up his life for a woman and child during the war," Bong said. "He could have saved himself, but he did not. Because of his sacrifice, his ascent (to the spirit world) was easy."

TALES OF THE CITY

Meet Bong de la Torre, an actor-trainer of the Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta) and a shaman. Or a healer (at the psychic level), as he prefers to call himself. He can "read" you minutes after meeting you.

Slightly jolted

For example, there was this fellow he had just met who was slightly jolted when Bong told him, "You were an Italian monk in your past life, and that is why you chose to be born in a Catholic country like the Philippines."

Then there were the two Eastern Europeans whom he had been introduced to in a recent international theater conference here in Manila, and he described to them their houses in detail.

The two Serbians were amazed.

Growing up in Naga, Camarines Sur, by the foothills of Mt. Isarog, at a time when parts of the city were still bucolic and very rural, Bong was already aware that he had the Gift. After all, on both sides of the family, there had been the local versions of shaman.

"Ang tawag sa amin ay herbolaryo o manggagamot" (They would call us faith healers or healers), he says.

As a teenager, Bong could sense energies or spirits around him. They were impish and mischievous, rather than malevolent. He describes them as elves, nature spirits, earth angels, guardians of nature, *diwata* or *engkanto*. Sometimes they felt like puppies sniffing at his feet, and he was disturbed.

He was drawn to the house of an elderly woman healer. Unfortunately, according to him, she placed a hex on him.

Telepathy

"I still remember her vividly, she was in her 70s," Bong says. "I was mesmerized by her presence. Through telepathic thoughts she created some kind of dependency on her. I heard a voice say, 'She's taking advantage of you, fooling you'."

DELA Torre: "I can connect to spirits."

Angrily, Bong confronted the healer who began to tremble and reprimanded her. Don't use your gift to abuse people, to take advantage of them, he told her. And he stalked out.

"So there's a dark side and a good side to healing," he notes.

After graduating from high school in Naga, Bong moved to Manila in 1980, took up marketing at the University of the East, and ended up working at Peta (then based in Intramuros, Manila, now in Quezon City). In the meantime, he had developed his spirituality, read up on the paranormal, and finally took a colleague's advice to professionalize his psychic healing.

"Make your service an affirmation fee," the colleague suggested. After wrestling with his conscience, Bong agreed.

"The unspoken thought is that the person values the service and other people benefit from it," he reasons out. "What's important is to focus on the service, not on the money. The motivation should not come from money."

Realizing what's important

He adds, "It's also about making people realize what is of value. This is about the care of the soul, a fair exchange of energies. When they shell out money for the counseling, the insights, they tend to listen more."

Surprisingly, 70 percent of his clients last year were media persons: Editors, executive producers and writers, the age bracket being from the late 20s to middle age. They were said to be undergoing a transition phase regarding their career or love life. There was something lacking, something not quite right, and they couldn't put a finger on it.

Face to face with a client, Bong has evolved a process in which he connects to the person, senses their energies, and attempts a heightened empathy of body and mind.

He picks up images from the person being read: Sometimes literal, mostly metaphorical. The latter he describes as "visual renditions of an inner state, a pictorial depiction."

Sensitive to energies

Being close to the spirit world, Bong is sensitive to energies. "Energies are also spirits, you can either see them or feel them," he says.

"I connect to spirits—some are hostile to this reality," the shaman observes. "Now I'm confident (about his ability). Given a chance, I think I can explain it in my limited capacity."

So what are the messages that he usually receives from the other side? "The messages are consistent," Bong declares. "While we are in this dimension, while we have the chance, we must express love for one another."

A HUGE billboard toppled onto the roof of the Metro Rail Transit-3 Boni station yesterday morning due to strong winds. The incident resulted in heavy traffic in the area. RUDY ESPERAS

Fallen billboard causes heavy traffic on Edsa

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TRAFFIC WAS SNARLED FOR HOURS while power supply in Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong was temporarily cut off after strong winds knocked down a huge billboard on Edsa early yesterday morning.

Fortunately, part of the billboard—situated atop the Roscar Building—fell onto the roof of the Metro Rail Transit-3 station at the corner of Boni Avenue. If the billboard hadn't caught on the roof of the MRT-3 station, it would have fallen into Edsa and totally made the southbound lane impassable to traffic.

Nobody was hurt in the incident. The billboard, measuring about 30 feet by 30 feet, according to Metro Base Team Leader Zandro Bondoc, was blown off the top of the building due to strong winds at about 3:30 a.m.

Until yesterday afternoon, clearing operatives of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, armed with acetylene tanks, a crane and a tow truck, were still cutting off parts of the dangling structure.

Some parts, however, had gotten entangled with electrical wires and power supply in the area had to be cut off.

Power was restored a few hours later but by then, traffic on the southbound lane of Edsa was already heavy.

The MMDA had to close parts of the southbound lane, leaving only a single lane open to motorists, from the corner of Shaw Boulevard up to Boni Avenue, as the dangling billboard could fall down anytime and injure motorists.

Manila police expecting 50 additional motorcycles

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE MANILA POLICE DISTRICT (MPD) is set to launch its "Motorcycle Riders Patrol" program with the acquisition of 50 more motorcycle units for the district, according to MPD acting chief Senior Supt. Danilo Abarzosa.

"We have requested the additional units from the city government of Manila which has been very supportive of us," Abarzosa said, adding that the motorcycles would enhance the MPD's capability in responding immediately to emergencies.

The police chief said that he plans to assign five teams of motorcycle riders to each of the district's 11 police stations.

"Motorcycles are easier to use in responding to incidents than mobile vehicles which could be caught in traffic jams," Abarzosa explained.

The teams will conduct police visibility patrols, serve as first responders to the crime scene and also conduct the initial investigation.

"The riders could apply what they learned from the workshop we conducted for them two weeks ago," Abarzosa said, referring to one-day workshop on investigative techniques held at the MPD Academy.

Antilitter campaign intensified

By Tarra V. Quismundo

BE MINDFUL OF HOW YOU DISPOSE OF your garbage or it could find its way back to your doorstep.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will kick off today a shame campaign against Metro residents who turn street sidewalks into mini dumps.

Through its *Balik Basura* drive, the MMDA hopes to keep the roads clear of trash and educate people in the metropolis about the importance of proper waste disposal.

"All garbage bags that are thrown carelessly on the streets will be returned to where they came from," said MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando.

"People should not get used to throwing garbage out on the streets. They think nothing will happen if they keep on doing this so we hope that with this program, their neighbors, at least, will see that they have done something wrong," he added.

Under the program, operatives of the MMDA waste management unit will be on the lookout for residents and establishment owners who dispose of their trash improperly, a practice, which according to Fernando, was still prevalent around the metropolis.

"The proper way to dispose of your garbage is to bring it out the moment the garbage truck passes by your house or your establishment. Wait for the garbage collector before bringing out your trash bags," he added.

Roldan asks for more time to find new counsel

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FORMER CONGRESSMAN AND ACTOR Dennis Roldan has asked the Pasig City Regional Trial Court hearing the kidnapping charges against him for more time to find a new set of lawyers.

He filed a motion asking the court for at least 10 more days to hire the services of a new defense team as the original 10-day deadline given him lapsed on Friday, court employee Eymard Eje told the INQUIRER. The extension, should it be approved, would lapse on Aug. 28.

Two weeks ago, the court gave Roldan 10 days to hire a new counsel after lawyers Sigfrid Fortun and Karl Castillo, who were representing him, formally withdrew from the case.

The move surprised prosecutors because only six days earlier, Fortun and Castillo had managed to convince the court to grant bail to Roldan. The two did not give a reason for their withdrawal from the case.

Weak evidence

Kidnapping is a nonbailable offense but Judge Agnes Reyes-Carpio allowed Roldan to post bail, saying the prosecution's evidence against him was weak. Roldan has been charged with kidnapping a 3-year-old Chinese-Filipino boy in February 2005.

Three days before the original deadline lapsed, Roldan personally went to the court to inform the judge that he had not yet found a lawyer.

He asked a courier to file his personal motion for extension as the deadline expired on Friday.

If he fails to secure the services of a new lawyer on time, Roldan would not be able to file his comments on the two motions the prosecution had filed last week to question his temporary liberty.

The prosecution also filed a motion asking Carpio to reconsider her decision to grant Roldan bail as well as a motion asking her to inhibit herself from the case.

DID YOU KNOW

IN THE 1960s, the Araneta Coliseum held the distinction of being the biggest covered coliseum in the world. The structure covers almost four hectares and has a dome diameter of 108 meters.

Its construction within the 35-ha Cubao property of J. Amado Araneta began in 1957 and was completed after two years. The coliseum opened on March 16, 1960 with a boxing match between Gabriel "Flash" Elorde and American Harold Gomes. More than 33,000 persons watched Elorde wrest the World Junior Lightweight Crown from Gomes. The prices of tickets to the fight ranged from 80 centavos to P5.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

METROBRIEFS

Feeling better

MOST of the 166 residents of Barangay Calawis in Antipolo City who suffered from acute gastroenteritis last week have already recovered. But as of yesterday, health officials were still trying to determine what could have caused the illness, city health officer Ma. Gracia Alcantara said. Two persons remain under observation at the Antipolo Community Hospital while most of the residents who complained of diarrhea, vomiting and abdominal pains starting Wednesday night are already feeling better, she added. More than 300 residents attended the inauguration of the new barangay hall in Calawis on Wednesday noon. They were served a variety of viands and some families even brought home some of the food. That night, however, 166 of those who went to the event started to experience symptoms of acute gastroenteritis. About 50 of them were brought to the hospital.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Slay attempt foiled

A MAN who helped enforce a court order that led to the eviction of informal settlers living in a compound in Malabon City sought help from the police after an attempt on his life. Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, director of the Northern Police District, said Enrique Villagracia 58, the caretaker of the Chua compound, has asked for police protection, saying four armed men on board motorcycles tried to kill him at around 9:30 a.m. Saturday. According to Villagracia, he and a companion were on board his Isuzu Crosswind van when the suspects fired at them on C-4 Road, Caloocan City. Villagracia said he managed to escape by driving the vehicle onto the center island. He and his companion then ran away.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Free livelihood training

FINDING it difficult to get a job? If you are a resident of Makati, you might find it to your advantage if you improve your skills by availing of the free livelihood and vocational training programs being offered by the city government. According to Mayor Jejomar Binay, the programs are open to all bonafide residents of Makati, especially the out-of-school youth, the unemployed or underemployed and working students. The Makati Training, Placement and Livelihood Consortia (MTPLC), a key agency of the city government tasked with providing skills and job opportunities to residents, is in charge of the training programs. Apollo Mambiar, MTPLC program manager, said they are still accepting applicants for training on autocadd, auto mechanics, basic electronics, computer and cellular phone repair, electrical building wiring and food service. Interested residents may go to the MTPLC office at the University of Makati on J.P. Rizal Extension in Barangay Cembo.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Women in e-BIZ seminar set

THE APEC training on Women's Electronic Business (e-BIZ) will be held starting today until the 25th at the Philippine Women's University on Taft Avenue, Manila. The training aims to promote Internet-based commercial opportunities for women entrepreneurs in the Asia Pacific region. All National Council of Women of the Philippines leaders and representatives of local governments are invited to attend. Please call 526-8421 local 124 or text 0921-5365949 for more details.

British confident of bringing charges against plot suspects

LONDON—BRITISH POLICE investigating an alleged plot to blow up US-bound airliners are optimistic they will be able to soon charge many of the 23 suspects in custody here, reports said Sunday.

The newspaper reports come after the British Broadcasting Corp. said that detectives have recovered "martyrdom videos" as well as a suitcase containing components needed to make a bomb.

Senior police and government officials told The Sunday Times that more than half of the 23 suspects held over the alleged plot to blow up the trans-Atlantic airliners are expected to be charged with terrorist offenses.

Most of the 23 can be held until Wednesday before police have to ask a judge to further extend their detention, police say. Under Britain's antiterror laws, police can hold them up to 28 days before charging or releasing them.

Two people arrested by the police have already been released.

The Sunday Times said that police are building a strong case after having uncovered bomb-making equipment, chemicals, a large sum of cash, at least one gun and "significant" documents.

The BBC, quoting unofficial police sources, reported that detectives found on laptops at least half a dozen "martyrdom videos" apparently recorded by some of the suspects as they prepared for suicide attacks.

London's Metropolitan Police declined to comment on the report.

The BBC has also reported that police had found a suitcase containing components needed to make an explosive device, in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, northwest of London.

A police spokesperson told AFP late Saturday that investigators are still searching 12 locations. Since announcing Aug. 10 that they foiled the plot, they have obtained more than 50 search warrants.

Senior sources quoted by The Sunday Times claim that the first batch of suspects will be charged with terrorism offenses within the next 10 days and more than half of those being held are expected to be charged.

The police "are very buoyant, very confident that the majority of these people will face terrorism charges," one official told the newspaper.

The police did not expect a repeat of events in June when a raid in east London's Forest Gate neighborhood failed to uncover evidence in support of intelligence of a chemical bomb plot.

Security sources quoted by The Sunday Telegraph said that the police are "hugely optimistic" that they will be able to bring charges against many of the suspects in the very near future.

Britain's domestic intelligence agency MI5 is convinced that the airline plot and many others are being coordinated by al-Qaida operatives, according to the Telegraph, quoting an unidentified government official.

Meanwhile, the watchdog Charity Commission said it is evaluating reports potentially linking some suspects to Crescent Relief London, a British aid group that raised money for earthquake relief in Pakistan last year. *AFP*

India group stands firm on Coke, Pepsi 'poison'

NEW DELHI—A LEADING INDIAN environmental group is standing by its allegations of high pesticide levels in locally bottled Coke and Pepsi despite a barrage of denials by the US soft drink heavyweights.

"We have the right test methodology and the experience," the director of the New Delhi-based Center for Science and Environment director Sunita Narain said in an interview Saturday.

"If we can drink them (Coke and Pepsi), we can test them," she said, adding the center used an internationally accepted method for its analysis.

However she added the center "is not worried" if its findings are proved wrong as its aim of focusing attention on India's lax nutrition safety standards has been achieved.

"When we released our study on pesticides in soft drinks, our objective was clear—we needed to prod action on regulations," she said.

The center sparked uproar and drew international headlines with a study it released this month claiming high levels of toxic chemicals in 57 drink products taken from 25 Indian Coca-Cola and PepsiCo plants.

The report prompted southern Kerala state to ban Coke and Pepsi drinks while five other states barred them from sale in schools and government offices.

A national ban was demanded by the federal opposition while some protesters went on cola-bottle smashing sprees.

The cola giants shot back with studies they say show their beverages comply not only with proposed new Indian safety standards but those of the European Union—the world's toughest. *AFP*

Bird flu claims 36th fatality in Indonesia

JAKARTA—A 35-YEAR-OLD WOMAN who died last week in an Indonesian village described as rife with bird flu was infected with the virus, according to two local tests, and a possible new cluster case is being probed, the health minister said on Sunday.

The woman from the West Javan village of Cikelet—which has seen a series of confirmed and suspected cases of bird flu in humans—died on Aug. 17 after being treated for symptoms of the H5N1 virus.

"Euis Lina was positive, we suspect there is a possibility of cluster," Health Minister Siti Fadillah Supari told Reuters by telephone.

Another official said the dead woman's 9-year-old daughter died a week before her mother after showing signs of bird flu, although no specimens were taken for testing.

"Her 9-year-old daughter died a week before her, but we did not take her specimens, so we don't know whether she is positive or negative," I Nyoman Kandun, Indonesia's director general of communicable disease control, said by telephone.

"It seems she had the same symptoms—pneumonia, breathlessness. If the daughter was also positive we can say this is cluster family."

The latest death takes Indonesia's toll from the disease to 46, the highest of any country.

The official said that they were collecting samples from others who may have been in contact with the family from the hamlet of Pasir Gambir.

"From the government's view based on our initial tests the virus has only been caught from fowl so far. But we are doing surveillance now," the minister said.

Fears that the virus had mutated into a form that could pass easily between humans heightened in May when seven people from an extended family died of the disease in Indonesia's North Sumatra.

Scientists worry that the H5N1 virus that has killed around 140 people and millions of birds since 2003 as it spread from Asia to Europe and Africa could mutate into a strain that could spark a human pandemic. *Reuters*

ALL RIGHT, ALREADY, WE WON'T PET YOU ANYMORE
Two-week-old Filomena, a Puma, lets out a roar in the National Zoo in Managua, Nicaragua, Aug, 19. AP

70 Taliban killed in fire fight

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN—More than 70 Taliban guerrillas have been killed in fighting with Nato and Afghan forces in the southern Afghan province of Kandahar, a provincial police official said on Sunday.

Four policemen were also killed in the battle in Panjwai district, to the southwest of Kandahar city, Panjwai police chief Neyaz Mohammad Sarhadi told Reuters.

"So far, we've recovered the bodies of 72 Taliban," Sarhadi said.

The battle erupted late on Saturday after hundreds of Taliban attacked the district government headquarters, he said.

Nato aircraft were also involved in the fighting in the district where clashes have erupted regularly since May when hundreds of Taliban were found to have infiltrated the area.

"It was fierce fighting and lasted until early this morning," Sarhadi said.

A spokesperson for Nato troops, Maj. Scott Lundy, said the Taliban had suffered significant casualties. He said the Nato force had not suffered any losses. *Reuters*

NORTH SEES WAR

US, Sokor to start military drills

SEOUL—US AND SOUTH KOREAN troops start military drills on Monday which are likely to increase regional tensions already high due to the North's July 5 missile launches and reports it is preparing for a nuclear test.

The annual drills, dubbed Ulchi Focus Lens, have been held without incident in South Korea for decades. Yet the North brands them as a prelude to invasion and nuclear war, vowing to boost its nuclear deterrent to counter threats of this sort.

Some are wondering if North Korea may use this year's drills as an excuse to step up preparations for a possible nuclear test.

Analysts said North Korea could be trying an extreme form of saber rattling by giving signs of a possible nuclear test to force the international community, and Washington in particular, into making concessions to the poor and isolated state.

"The joint military exercises are another grave military provocation to the DPRK (North Korea). They are nothing but a very dangerous military adventure driving the situation of the Korean peninsula to the brink of a war," its official KCNA news agency said on Friday.

The North defied international warnings and test-fired seven missiles on July 5, including its long-range Taepodong-2, which experts said could one day hit parts of US territory.

ABC News reported last week that a US intelligence agency had observed suspicious vehicle movements at a suspected North Korean test site. It quoted an unidentified senior State Department official saying a test was a real possibility.

President George W. Bush warned on Friday that North Korea would pose a threat to the world if it tested a nuclear bomb for the first time.

Government officials in Washington and Seoul would not confirm the reports of an impending test, with South Korea's point man for the North saying he was skeptical.

"North Korea's willingness to risk international retribution for launching a long-range missile increases the potential for Pyongyang to conduct a nuclear weapons test," said Bruce Klingner, an expert on Korean affairs for the US-based Eurasia Group.

"There is a greater potential for North Korea to conduct a nuclear test than at any time in the past. We assess a 10-20 percent likelihood of a test during the next two months, with a higher potential by year's end," he said in an e-mail. *Reuters*

Italian rescue ship may have sunk migrants' boat

ROME—PROSECUTORS WERE probing on Saturday whether an Italian Navy ship may have caused a boat crammed with African migrants off southern Italy to sink, leaving at least 10 people dead and around 40 missing, ANSA news agency said.

The prosecutor's office on the southern island of Sicily said it was launching an investigation into whether an attempt to rescue the migrants from their overloaded craft may have caused it to overturn.

"Among the hypotheses examined by the judges will be a possible error in the way in which the Italian Navy ship La Minerva maneuvered to draw alongside the craft," the agency reported.

The Minerva spotted the 10-meter boat before dawn around 15 kilometers off the coast of the remote Italian island of Lampedusa and went to help.

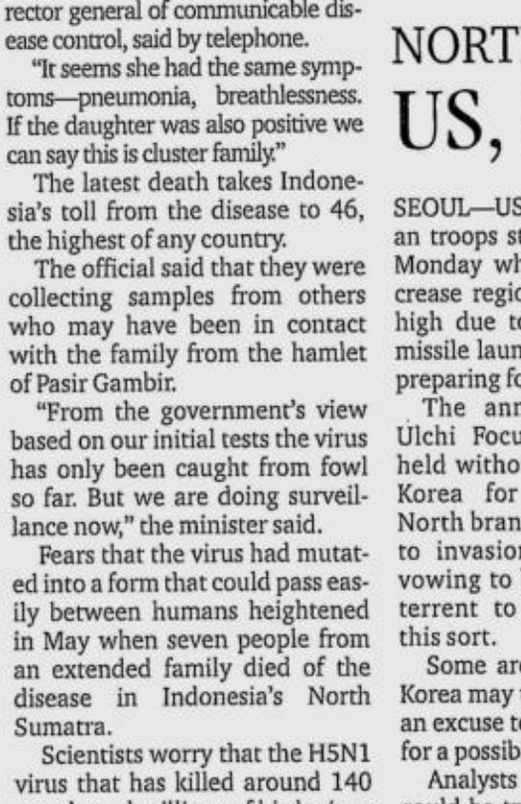
Lampedusa, south of Sicily and 300 kilometers from the Libyan coast, has been facing waves of illegal immigrants on often precarious craft and dozens of boats have been intercepted south of Sicily in recent weeks.

ANSA quoted a survivor of Saturday's boat wreck as saying: "When we saw the ship we all moved to be able to get on board and our craft began to sway more and more violently and ended up sinking."

The boat sank suddenly 10 minutes later and the crew of the Italian ship took to lifeboats in a desperate effort to pluck survivors from the sea, pulling some 70 people to safety.

The bodies of four women and six men were also recovered but survivors said the death toll was sure to mount.

There was no immediate explanation for the tragedy, which took place in relatively calm seas and light winds. *AFP*



KARR being escorted to the airport from a detention center in Bangkok, Aug. 20. AFP

JonBenet suspect was treated at sex-change clinic

BANGKOK, THAILAND—THE SUSPECT in the murder of American child beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey was treated at a Bangkok clinic specializing in sex-change operations and cosmetic surgery, clinic officials said Sunday.

A doctor at the Pratunam Polyclinic confirmed that he had treated the suspect, 41-year-old former schoolteacher John Mark Karr.

"He was one of my patients," said Dr. Thep Vechwijit, who declined to provide details of the treatment.

A staffer at the clinic, who demanded anonymity since she was not authorized to make statements to the media, said Karr had consulted the doctor about a sex-change operation.

This could not be confirmed by other sources.

Karr was to be flown later Sunday to Boulder, Colorado, where he faces charges of first-degree murder, kidnapping and child sexual assault in connection with the 1996 killing of 6-year-old JonBenet Ramsey.

Police said Karr appeared nervous ahead of his deportation.

"Generally he is fine, but a little bit nervous as the time of his departure approaches," immigration police chief Lt. Gen. Suwat Tumrongsiskul told The Associated Press.

"We treat him well since he is a high-profile suspect. Yesterday he said that he wanted to eat American food so we ordered from Kentucky Fried Chicken for him, but this morning he had the standard breakfast" of Thai food, Suwat said.

The case has sparked concern in Thailand over whether foreign teachers hired by Thai schools are adequately checked to weed out criminals and deviants.

Karr, once detained on charges of possessing child pornography, in recent years apparently traveled to Europe, Central America and Asia to search for teaching jobs. He was arrested a day after he began teaching second grade in Bangkok, US prosecutors said.

Thai Education Minister Chaturon Chaisang said Saturday he has ordered his ministry to look into the problem.

Chaturon said it has been too easy for unqualified foreigners to get teaching jobs, in part because those with proper qualifications are too expensive for many institutions, the state Thai News Agency reported.

US officials, the only ones to have actually interrogated Karr, have been silent about what he told them, citing his right to privacy and legal procedures, while secondhand accounts by Thai officials have been vague and contradictory.

When Karr spoke to reporters on Thursday, he said he was alone with JonBenet when she died in the basement of her home on Dec. 26, 1996, but that her death was an accident.

"I am so very sorry for what happened to JonBenet," Karr told The Associated Press. "It's very important for me that everyone knows that I love her very much, that her death was unintentional, that it was an accident."

Although Karr took responsibility for the girl's death, his statements have been sketchy, and with little public evidence linking him to the crime, some experts have speculated that he is either lying or delusional.

"Many high-publicity crimes have these people coming out of the woodwork," said Elizabeth Loftus, director of the Center for Psychology and Law at the University of California-Irvine. *AP*

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Israel jets further strain Lebanon truce

BEIRUT—ISRAELI WARPLANES flew reconnaissance missions over Lebanon on Sunday, a day after an Israeli commando raid deep into the country strained a UN-backed truce that ended Israel's 34-day war with Hezbollah.

Witnesses and Lebanese security sources said high-altitude flights covered virtually all of the country, from its volatile south to close to the border with Syria in the north and east.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said Saturday's raid on a Hezbollah stronghold deep in Lebanon had violated the truce that went into effect on Aug. 14.

"The secretary general is deeply concerned about a violation by the Israeli side of the cessation of hostilities as laid out in Security Council resolution 1701," a spokesperson for Annan said in a statement posted on the UN website.

Israel said the operation, in which commandos were airlifted into the area by helicopter, was defensive and was designed to disrupt weapons supplies to Hezbollah from Syria and Iran.

It denied it had violated the resolution, which allows it to act in self-defense, and accused Hezbollah of doing so by smuggling weapons.

A senior United Nations envoy in Beirut, Terje Roed-Larsen, said that if the guerrilla group was found to have smuggled weapons, it would be in breach of the truce.

One Israeli soldier was killed and two wounded when the commandos clashed with Hezbollah guerrillas near the village of Bodai, 26 km from the Syrian border.

Hezbollah denied it had suffered any casualties after security sources said three guerrillas were killed in the clash.

Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora described the operation as "a naked violation of the cessation of hostilities declared by the Security Council."

The UN statement said Annan spoke to Siniora, adding Annan had called on all parties "to respect strictly the arms embargo, exercise maximum restraint (and) avoid provocative actions."

Annan also discussed the raid with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who "pointed out the importance of supervision of the Syrian-Lebanese border," an Israeli official said.

Syria, like Iran, denies arming Hezbollah.

Lebanon's defense minister said that, if Israel carried out further, similar operations in Lebanon, he would ask the Cabinet to reconsider its decision to deploy Lebanese troops to the south of the country.

That would be a serious blow to a UN plan for southern Lebanon, which envisages a 30,000-strong force in the area made up of Lebanese and UN troops.

Fifty French military engineers disembarked in Naqoura in the south on Saturday, the first reinforcements since the war.

At least 1,183 people in Lebanon and 157 Israelis were killed in the conflict.

Israel said it killed more than 530 Hezbollah fighters—at least five times more than the group has acknowledged. Hezbollah buried 54 guerrillas across Lebanon on Saturday, the largest total on a single day.

The conflict began after Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers in a cross-border raid on July 12, saying it wanted to trade them for Lebanese and Arab prisoners held in Israel.

Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian and wounded at least two others on Sunday at a checkpoint in the occupied West Bank, Israel Radio said. *Reuters*

LEBANESE women watch from outside the cemetery as Hezbollah fighters killed in fighting with Israelis are buried Aug. 19. AP

BEAUTIFUL, BUT WHERE IS POLONIA?
Marzena Cieslik, winner of Miss Polonia, presents a bikini at the final of Miss Polonia in Warsaw Aug. 19. REUTERS

Sri Lanka moves to lift siege on Jaffna amid battles

COLOMBO—SRI LANKAN TROOPS backed by artillery and fighter jets are resisting a Tamil Tiger rebel advance on the Jaffna peninsula amid moves to lift a nine-day siege of the embattled region, military officials said Sunday.

Overnight attacks by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on troops at Muhamali on the southern edge of the Jaffna district led to casualties on both sides, a military official said.

He said at least 10 soldiers had been killed and about 125 wounded in sporadic clashes along front lines in the past two days. The rebel offensive began nine days ago and is believed aimed at capturing Jaffna.

Tigers ran the peninsula as a de facto separate state for five years till they were driven out in 1995. They tried to recapture it in 2000 but were stopped after advancing one-third of the way to Jaffna town, the cultural center of the Tamils.

"The objective of the latest LTTE offensive is to recapture Jaffna," defense ministry spokesperson Upali Rajapakse said. "We have successfully resisted their advance."

The military on Friday bombed what it called a Sea Tiger base used to manufacture attack craft. The LTTE in a statement Sunday said the air force had hit a civilian boatyard and wounded two people.

The defense ministry said a large number of guerrillas were killed on Saturday but did not give figures for the military.

"The security forces today found over 80 dead bodies lying ahead of the forward defense lines," it said in a statement. "The troops were in the process of collecting the dead bodies."

There was no immediate reaction from the rebels to the purported death toll, and no independent verification was available. Both sides are known to exaggerate casualty figures.

The fighting has cut the only land access to the peninsula and also prevented aircraft flying to Palaly air base at the northern edge of the peninsula after the runway was hit by Tiger shells last week. *AFP*

Chronology of two-decade civil war

Aug. 20—SRI LANKA'S GOVERNment and Tamil Tiger rebels have now been locked for three weeks in the first ground fighting since a 2002 ceasefire.

Below are some key dates in the island's two-decade civil war, which has killed more than 65,000 people.

1948—Ceylon gains independence from Britain, country is later renamed Sri Lanka.

1956—Government makes majority language Sinhala the language of state. Minority Tamils say they feel marginalized.

1976—As some Tamils take up arms against the state, militant Velupillai Prabhakaran forms the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

1983—A Tiger attack in north kills several soldiers, triggering vast anti-Tamil riots in capital Colombo. Hundreds die, thousands flee. Start of what Tigers call "First Eelam War."

1987—Having earlier armed Tigers, India sends troops to enforce truce. Tigers renege on pact, refuse to disarm and begin three years of fighting that kills 1,000 Indian soldiers.

India withdraws, leaving LTTE in control of northern city of Jaffna.

1990—Talks fail, Tigers over-run police stations in east.

"Second Eelam War" begins.

1991—Suspected Tiger suicide bomber kills former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The next year, Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa killed in suicide blast.

1995—President Chandrika Kumaratunga agrees truce with rebels. "Eelam War 3" begins when rebels sink naval craft.

Tigers lose Jaffna to government forces.

1995-2001—War rages across north and east. Suicide attack on Central Bank in Colombo kills around 100, President Kumaratunga wounded in another attack as bombs become frequent.

2001—Tiger attack on main international airport destroys half Sri Lankan Airlines fleet. Economic growth ceases. Sept. 11, 2001 attacks raise Tiger worries of US action against them as part of wider "war on terror."

2002—After Norwegian mediation, two sides sign ceasefire. *Reuters*

Iran tests short-range missiles

TEHRAN, IRAN—IRAN TEST-FIRED 10 SURface-to-surface short-range missiles on Sunday, as a military training plane crashed outside the capital after catching fire, state-run television reported.

The missile testing came a day after Iran launched a series of large-scale military maneuvers geared at testing the country's new defensive doctrine.

"Saegheh, the missile, has a range of between 80 and 250 kilometers," the television said. It said the missile was tested in the Kashan desert, about 250 kilometers southeast of the Iranian capital, Tehran. Saegheh means lightning in Farsi.

The military did not specify whether the new missile was capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

State-run TV also reported that a small military training plane had crashed on Sunday. The plane was not taking part in the military maneuvers, the TV said, stating the crash was due to technical failures.

The broadcast said the plane was making an emergency landing on a highway in northeast Tehran when one of its wings hit a water reservoir and it burst into flames and crashed.

The television said the only pilot in the plane parachuted safely.

The crash was the latest in a string of plane accidents the Iranian government has blamed on US sanctions, arguing that they have prevented the country from repairing and replacing its aging fleet.

Since the 1979 Islamic revolution, Iran has supplemented its fleet of Boeing and European-made Airbus airliners with planes bought or leased from the former Soviet Union.

Iran routinely holds war games to test the military equipment it builds at home since the US ban was enforced and the army has held war games with equipment such as missiles, tanks and armored personnel carriers.

But the new tests, in the wake of the Lebanon-Hezbollah fighting against Israel, seemed certain to create new tensions with the West.

The Iranian military said the maneuvers reflected the current level of tension in the Middle East. "We have to be prepared against any threat and we should be a role model for other countries," local newspapers quoted army spokesperson Gen. Mohammad Reza Ashtiani, as saying earlier this week. *AP*

Snipers attack Shiite pilgrims in Baghdad

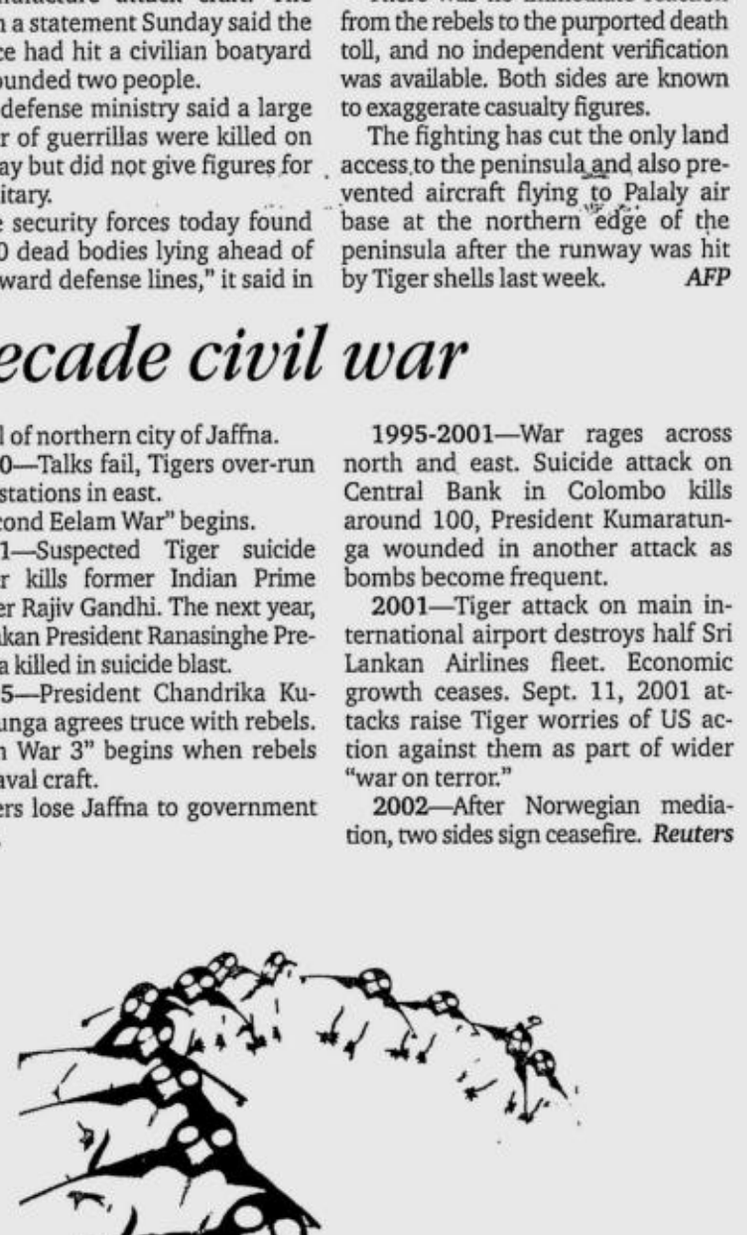
BAGHDAD—INSURGENTS FIRED on Iraqi Shiite pilgrims marking the anniversary of the death of a revered imam in Baghdad on Sunday, killing at least two people one year on from post-war Iraq's bloodiest day.

Gunfire and explosions could be heard echoing around the center of the city as the pilgrims headed toward the mausoleum of Imam Musa Kadhim, where last year 965 Shiites died in a stampede triggered by insurgent attacks.

In the Al-Khilani neighborhood of central Baghdad, a group of pilgrims came under attack from a sniper. One pilgrim was wounded and Iraqi security forces returned fire, according to an AFP journalist at the scene.

Police said one of their officers was killed.

An interior ministry official said pilgrims also came under automatic fire in the northern Al-Salekh neighborhood and Ghazaliyah, a Sunni district in the west of the city, where one Shiite was killed and three wounded. *AFP*



GO FLY A KITE, IT'S GREAT!
A contestant flies a kite at the International Kite Festival in Jakarta on Aug. 20. Twenty-two provinces in Indonesia and 11 countries joined the two-day festival. REUTERS

In California, immigration may tip vote

LOS ANGELES—ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION HAS long been a political minefield in California, making and breaking political careers. Now, with Congress considering the most sweeping changes to immigration laws in two decades, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is learning just how troublesome that terrain can be in an election year.

No Republican candidate for governor or president since the 1970s has won in California without getting at least one-third of the Hispanic vote, which Schwarzenegger, a Republican, achieved in a wide-open recall election in 2003. In his bid for reelection in November, he faces the difficult task of courting both Latino voters and his core conservative supporters, two groups that are often far apart on immigration.

"It's like Iraq," he said. "It may not be the driving issue of a campaign, but every candidate has a position that has been articulated."

Jennifer E. Duffy, who tracks governors' races for The Cook Political Report, a nonpartisan newsletter, said that Schwarzenegger, as a Republican in a state dominated by Democrats, has a difficult task in balancing the two competing constituencies, because "if just Republicans vote for him, he loses."

So one week Schwarzenegger defends his support for the Minutemen civilian patrols on the border that many conservatives strongly endorse, and the next he distances himself from an anti-illegal-immigrant ballot initiative passed in 1994 that galvanized Latino political involvement on the side of Democrats. *NYT*

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Argentina,** Germany score convincing hoop victories /A30

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

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■ **Tiger on prowl,** grabs share of PGA lead /A30

Brave Bacolod girls end up 2nd in World Series

KIRKLAND, WASHINGTON—THE PHILIPpines' Education and Training Center School from Bacolod City just didn't have a chance.

Jaclyn Traina pitched a one-hitter and smashed two home runs as the defending champion US-South whitewashed the Filipinas, 8-0, in the finals of the 2006 Junior League Softball World Series Saturday at the Everest Park here.

Traina struck out 10 batters, including the first six she faced, in a dominating performance that completed for US-South—represented by the Naples Girls Softball Little League from Naples, Florida—a six-game sweep of the international tournament for 13-14-year-old players.

Cody Whipperman also added a home run for Naples, which also scored a 2-0 shutout in the eliminations over the Bacolod squad, the reigning Asia Pacific champions.

It was the third championship for Naples, which also snared the crown for US-South in 2000 and 2001. The Lake Wales softbelles brought home the World Series crown for US-South last year.

Despite the loss, it was the best finish for ETCS in the international tournament after it ended up third in its previous two World Series campaigns in the Little League (11-12) division in Portland, Oregon.

The ETCS softbelles, mentored by Lagrimas Ciokon, Vilda Benjamin and Dina Barlita, were the first squad from the Philippines to enter the title game of the event since 2003, when another Bacolod squad, Paglaum Village National High School, grabbed the country's first and only World Series crown.

The intrepid Bacoleñas earlier pulled off a stunning 6-0 semifinal triumph over powerhouse US-East, the top seed in Pool A, to book a place in the finals.

Represented by West Point LL from Greensburg, Pennsylvania, US-East swept all its four games in the eliminations and was heavily favored over the ETCS team that qualified as the No. 2 semifinalist behind Naples in their bracket.

Naples sealed a rematch with ETCS after blasting the Needville of US-Southwest, 4-0, in the other crossover semifinal clash.

Needville went on to score a 10-3 win over Greensburg in their playoff for third.

The other RP representatives in the Softball World Series—two teams from the International Little League Association of Manila—fell out of contention early in the week. *Christian Irl Tan, Inquirer Visayas*

Realtors pick Williams; Air21 settles for Santos

FIL-AM Kelly Williams is cool and sassy after being picked No. 1 by Sta. Lucia.

By June Navarro

KELLY WILLIAMS WAS AN EASY CHOICE FOR STA. LUcia Realty.

The Realtors made the flamboyant 6-foot-5 Filipino-American this year's No. 1 overall pick yesterday in the 2006 PBA Rookie Draft at the Market! Market! activity center in Tagig.

"Everybody knows that Kelly is the best player in the amateurs," said Sta. Lucia coach Alfrancis Chua, whose Realtors wound up dead last in the team rankings the previous season.

"Other coaches have been telling us that he's really coachable. He's very athletic and could play the off-guard, small forward and power forward positions."

Williams, whose mother Andrea Pasco Williams hails from Cebu, has been assured of a five-year contract that, among others, guarantees him the maximum monthly salary of P350,000 in the last three years.

"We've given long contracts to other players," said Sta. Lucia governor Buddy Encarnado. "I see no reason why we can't give a longer contract to Kelly. We've been saving all these years for this. Now is the time to spend."

The offer to Williams, estimated at P17.9 million, could be the longest pact in recent memory since Kenneth Duremdes signed a seven-year deal in 2000, three years before the teams started cutting down on operational expenses.

"I'm going to give all that I've got on the

REALTORS/ A28

AIR21 governor Lito Alvarez helps Arwind Santos don the Express jacket. RYAN LIM

Viloria, Romero rematch possible

AN IMMEDIATE REmatch seems likely between Fil-Am Brian Viloria and newly crowned World Boxing Council light flyweight champion Omar Nino Romero of Mexico.

According to an article by the LA Times' Bill Dwyre, as cited by Philboxing.com correspondent Ed de la Vega, promoter Bob Arum has reportedly stated that he would definitely stage a rematch on Nov. 16, possibly at the Orleans Hotel and Casino, where Viloria lost his title to Romero less than two weeks ago.

Another possible venue, according to the report, is in the undercard of the Nov. 18 Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales "Grand Finale" card to be held at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas.

Earlier, Arum had hinted that he was not inclined to hold an immediate rematch, based on the way the Mexican Romero dominated Viloria in carving out a unanimous decision victory.

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

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Long-shot Luxardo victorious under Dilema

By Musong R. Castillo

CARMONA, CAVITE—PATTY DILEMA WAS A MASTER at work aboard Luxardo yesterday, guiding the long shot mare to a wire-to-wire triumph in the fifth leg of the Philracom's Imported Stakes Series at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

Dilema, the Jockey of the Year in 2004, worked the four-year-old chestnut Luxardo up front early in the absence of certified speedballs before fending off a charging cavalry in the final bend for the triumph worth P360,000.

Luxardo won by a length over top favorite Slatkis, who labored hard carrying the top weight of 58 kilograms on Jeffryl Zarate, and by another length over Hermie Esguerra's Hear Me, whose finishing burst came just a tad late.

Second choice California Lady, another four-year-old mare ridden by Jonathan Hernandez, never really contended, jumping out fourth and finishing in that position, about five lengths behind.

Luxardo, a regular campaigner in this series, commanded only P66,535 worth of tickets out of the total sales of P719,460. But she ran the 1,750m race impressively, clocking 1 minute, 51 seconds over a soggy track.

Luxardo got to run a pace to her liking and Dilema saved up enough strength on his mount entering the final two quarters when Suppressed, Hear Me's coupled entry, and Slatkis applied pressure at the far turn.

Under Louie D. Balboa, Suppressed finished fifth, while Don't Tell Ella (CV Garganta) and Iron Heart rounded out the order of finish.

'Lighter' Zarate still loses

CLASS B RIDER JEFFRYL T. ZARATE STANDS TO BE METED A stiff sanction after being caught "dropping" weights riding top favorite Slatkis in yesterday's fifth leg of the Philracom's P600,000 Imported Stakes series. Zarate, who served a six-month suspension for losing atop Noor last year, was actually relieved of his last two rides later in the night—on Expiditer in the next race and Event 9 winner Native Land—because of the infraction that could, at worse, merit a lifetime ban. Sources from the Manila Jockey Club confirmed that Zarate did not wear the belt that would have brought him to 58 kg. aboard Slatkis.

Eagles keep on soaring; Warriors up

By Jasmine W. Payo

STILL IN FULL CONTROL, THE ATENEO EAgles' composure down the wire continued to pull them through.

The Eagles pounded the University of the Philippines Maroons in the last six minutes to hack out a 98-88 triumph and claim the first Final Four berth in the UAAP men's basketball tournament yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

JC Intal, Doug Kramer and Macky Escalona powered the Eagles to their eighth straight victory, a record achieved by Ateneo's 2002 team during its championship run.

With the University of the East Warriors thumping the Far Eastern Tamaraws, 86-73, in the second game, the Eagles also claimed the first twice-to-beat advantage in the semifinals.

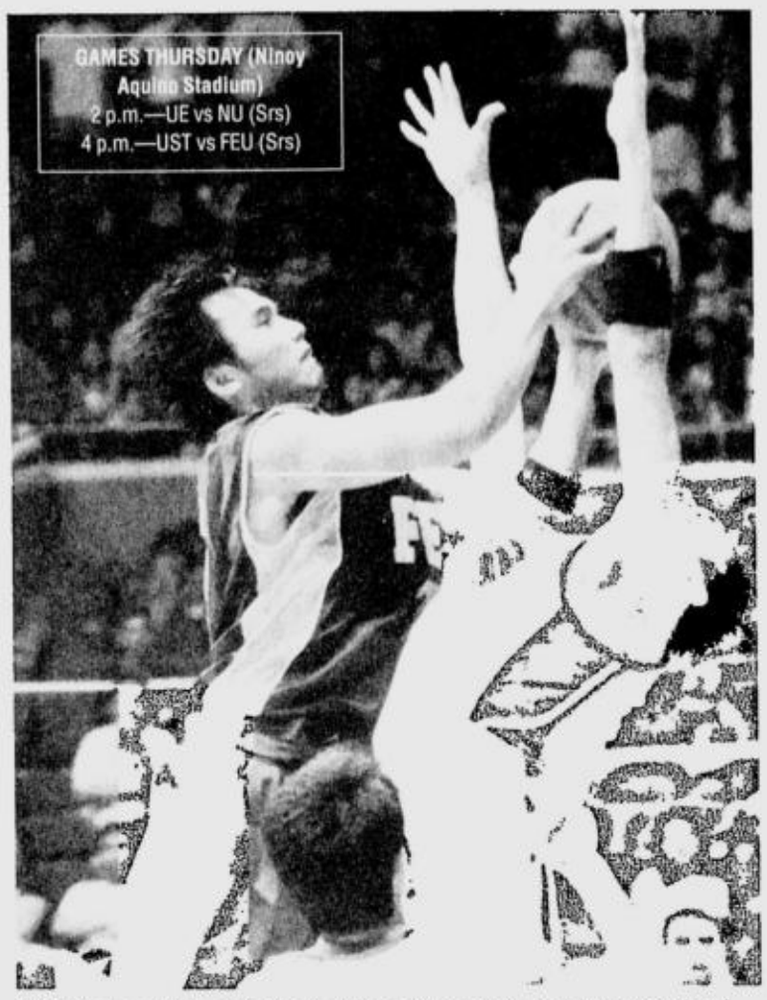
After Chris Tiu poured in a team-high 21 points, Intal, Kramer and Escalona combined to turn a slim 80-79 advantage into a 94-84 spread with only 2 minutes 7 seconds remaining.

"We know if we stumble, UE is just right on our heels," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "We'll try to keep the streak going as long as we can. It was tough playing against UP. They showed a lot of energy. We know it was a big game for them and we struggled in the first half."

And Black had every reason to be wary of the Warriors, who improved their second-running slate to 6-2 after dispatching the Tamaraws.

Bonbon Custodio, Marcy Arellano and Kelvin Gregorio gave UE a 21-10 lead and the Warriors went ahead by 18 at 60-42 in the third period.

GAMES THURSDAY (Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
2 p.m.—UE vs NU (Srs)
4 p.m.—UST vs FEU (Srs)



FAR Eastern's Benedict Fernandez charges into Kelvin Gregorio of UE in yesterday's game. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Why Pacquiao is a favorite in pool parlors

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT OUR idol Manny Pacquiao won't hurt. Right?

Indeed, there are setbacks which, after being kept secret, won't tarnish Pacquiao's reputation.

So the great harvest continues for the country's wealthiest, most famous athlete.

But, hey, there's a problem. We also keep hearing tales about Pacquiao's silly losses in gambling parlors, mainly the pool venues where he reportedly often gets ripped clean by cold-blooded pool sharks.

Do you know, offered an informant from Cavite, about this one at the Rack 'n Roll in Ermita, where Pacman fell prey to a certain Boy Tisoy?

No. But there were already many awful stories before that.

Listen: Boy Tisoy played Pacquiao and conveniently lost P50,000 to our boxing hero.

Great, Pacman winning, that's something new. We seldom hear this kind of tale about him.

* * *

That was over a month ago. The following week, Tisoy, a certified *tirador*, together with his group, returned to the venue where he was predictably engaged by Pacquiao in another table mano-a-mano.

What happened?

What else? Pacquiao was beaten black and blue, he got mangled dry and coughed up a cool P500,000.

Of course, that was a petty sum for the celebrated victim. There were earlier stories of Pacquiao, trapped, foolishly throwing away millions over the pool table.

With the wealth he has amassed, Pacquiao could go play the mindless slugger long after retirement and he may never run out of cash to waste.

They call this amusing ambush *harang*, hold-up, a worn-out racket inflicted only on innocent, fat cows that stray off blind onto fertile pool killing fields.

It's his own money Pacquiao has been squandering, we have no business complaining.

Still, fans feel it's incumbent upon concerned friends to properly warn the boxing hero.

Why? The alarm bell must be sounded because, based on pool circuit reports, Pacquiao has become the outstanding favorite, the succulent flavor of the month among jaded pool sharks.

* * *

Sorry reports on Pacquiao continued to be spoken in whispers, as though a code would be violated if somebody would tell him that, frankly, he was being dumb.

Yes, if Pacquiao had Freddie Roach, instead of dummies, around at the pool parlors, the famed American trainer would be telling Manny to pack up and go.

Now hold it. One thing going for the national boxing idol is the fact that he obviously has not brought his comic gullibility into the boxing ring.

Pacquiao has always kept his cards close to his chest while fighting sharply out there.

* * *

This definitely was the case when he insisted on the 130-lb limit (as stipulated in the rematch clause) for his third encounter with Mexico's Erik Morales, scheduled in Las Vegas on Nov. 18.

For the record, Pacquiao had been offered, dared, taunted in a bid for him to fight Morales at a catch-up weight, preferably 132 lb.

No way. Pacquiao, insisted. He stood firm.

He refused to be trapped and held ground to preserve his built-in physical edge.

However, in a strange twist, Pacquiao one morning woke up to declare that he would—Heaven forbid—fight Morales, even if the fabulous Mex checked in as a heavyweight.

* * *

Wow! It was no longer easy to determine how that had happened.

OK, Pacman would definitely get aptly remunerated if Morales came in at over 130 lb in November

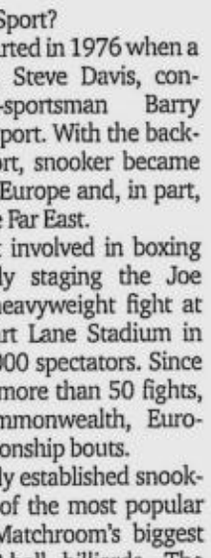
Other than his $3 million purse, Pacquiao could also get a cool $1 million if and when Morales checked in at, say, 132 for their third fight.

But it's very likely that Pacquiao has again fallen into a trap.

This fault—how our idol has again played it shallow and dumb—will be detailed here next time.

Bata, Django open RP bid in World Cup

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

THE FIRST EVER World Cup of Pool, a 9-ball team event featuring the top two players from 32 countries, gets going tomorrow at the Newport Center in Newport, South Wales, England, with Filipino billiards greats Efren "Bata" Reyes and Efren "Django" Bustamante representing the Philippines. The tournament ends on Aug. 27.

Offering a total cash pot of $250,000, the tourney is promoted by the England-based Matchroom Sport, one of the world's most prolific independent sports promotion and television companies.

The champion team gets $60,000 while the other major prizes are $30,000 for the runner-up; $16,000 for the semifinalists; and $10,000 for the quarterfinalists.

All the teams, including the Reyes-Bustamante tandem of Puyat Sports, were selected by Matchroom Sport, which used a combination of rankings and wild cards.

* * *

What is Matchroom Sport?

Matchroom Sport started in 1976 when a young snooker player, Steve Davis, convinced businessman-sportsman Barry Hearn to promote the sport. With the backing of Matchroom Sport, snooker became popular particularly in Europe and, in part, in some countries in the Far East.

Matchroom also got involved in boxing promotions by initially staging the Joe Bugner-Frank Bruno heavyweight fight at Tottenham's White Hart Lane Stadium in 1987 before some 30,000 spectators. Since then, it has promoted more than 50 fights, including British, Commonwealth, European and word championship bouts.

Although it has firmly established snooker and boxing as two of the most popular sports on television, Matchroom's biggest promotion remains 9-ball billiards. The huge success of the Mosconi Cup pitting Europe against America and the World Pool Masters is proof of the progress it has made.

In 1999, Matchroom Sport promoted the World Pool Championship—the biggest event in the history of 9-ball billiards—in Cardiff, Wales. It was there where Bata Reyes put the Philippines on the world billiards map by emerging champion.

In 2002, also in Cardiff, another Filipino, Django Bustamante, also made us proud when he decided to continue playing and finish the tournament even though he was in emotional tatters following the death of his youngest daughter, Mariel, in Manila. Bustamante lost to American Earl Strickland, 17-15, in the nail-biting finals.

The WPC has since developed into one of Matchroom Sports' biggest, richest and most successful sporting events.

On Nov. 4, this year, the tournament goes to Manila. It will be organized by Raya Sports and Events chaired by Yen Makabenta and supported by the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines headed by Ernie Fajardo and the Philippine Sports Commission chaired by William Ramirez.

Said Matchroom Sport chair and founder Barry Hearn: "Many people have worked hard to make this (WPC) happen and now, at last, the people of the Philippines and a TV audience of millions around the world, will have the opportunity to see legends like Reyes and Bustamante, as well as a host of up-and-coming Filipino players doing battle for the sport's greatest prize."

Hot Dumandan leads RP sweep bid in Lion City

DUMANDAN

BAYRON

SINGAPORE—MARVIN DUMANDAN AND JAY Bayron go for the elusive team and individual title double for the Philippines in the Singapore Open Amateur Championship starting today.

Michael Bibat captured the 2004 individual crown but the Philippines lost to Singapore by two strokes in the team championship, while the RP squad took last year's team plum but Juvic Pagunsan lost the individual title to local bet Choo Tze-huang, also by two strokes.

But with Dumandan, the DHL Amateur Open champion, in tip-top form and Bayron raring to strut his stuff, the Philippines may just score a sweep in the tournament which is expected to draw the best players in Southeast Asia.

Dumandan, 27, is coming off a victory in the recent North Orange County Amateur Championship in California.

The Philippines is fielding eight players in the event although only Dumandan and Bayron are competing in team play. The other RP bets are Gene Bondoc, Anthony Fernando, Eugene Bunyi, Michael Alejandro, Dante Bisera and Bibat.

The team's stint here, sponsored by ICTSI as part of the team's build-up for the World Amateurs and the Asian Games, is also backed by the Philippine Sports Commission.

SPORTSWATCH

B-PAL caging gets more backers

THREE MOR COMPANIES HAVE THROWN THEIR SUPPORT TO THE BURlington Philippine Advocacy League, a cause-oriented basketball tournament which opens on Sept. 23 at the San Andres gym. LA Gear, Sportshouse and Kitaro joined Burlington Industries Philippines, Inc., Sportsteum Inc. and Wilcon as sponsors of this cagefest that will feature six teams each in two divisions, namely, the Pro life and Bantay Bata. According to the organizing TEAMSports, teams which want to join may call 894-3576 or Teddy Pereña at cell 0918-9217160 for details. Philippine Star and GNC have signed up for the tournament, which will have a women's free-throw shooting and a cheering competitions as side events. "The fusion of popular sports and laudable projects like the Pro Life Movement of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza should get our all-out assistance," said Rudy Tan, general manager of Burlington.

70 fights in 'Rambulan' at SJC today

THE FIRST DERBY OF THE 2006 STAGFIGHTING SEASON BEGINS AT 5 P.M. today in the "Rambulan" 5-stag derby at the San Juan Collseum with more than 70 fights lined up. The five-day stagfest, also to be held on Aug. 23, 25, 28 and 30), is backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and comes on the heels of the 289-entry Rambulan cockfest recently, where Eddie Aparri emerged as double champion. A guaranteed prize of P2.5 million awaits the winner. Entry fee is P8,800. For inquiries, call 0918-9001411, 725-5369 or 725-6563.

Marcelo rules Endurocross at Timberland

MARCELO

JIMBOY MARCELO overcame the quagmires to rule the Production Open class in the third leg of KP5 Enduro Cross Series at Timberland Raceway San Mateo, Rizal, recently.

Marcelo, the 18-year-old Valenzuela City rider from Team Total-Yamaha-Motoworld, captured the holeshot king award in the second heat on the way to victory.

Jordan Herrera and Jon-jon Antonio settled for second and third place, respectively, in the race held in San Mateo's muddy track.

Marcelo, already the Enduro King back-to-back champion of MP Turbo Speedfest and the Enduro Open Rider of The Year at the Cebu boardwalk, is backed by Total (Phils.) Corp., Rudy Project, Yamaha, Zeus Helmets, Sinisalo Racewear, Hero, Powerade, Viva, GCG, Bridgestone and Waterfront Hotels

Realtors pick Williams; Air21 opts for Santos

From page A27

court for Sta. Lucia and, hopefully, I could bring what this team needs," said the 24-year-old Williams, who could earn the maximum rookie salary of P150,000 and P225,000 on his sophomore season.

Rumors of Williams holding out for a year should San Miguel Beer fail to snatch him from the freshman lottery came to an end when Sta. Lucia and San Miguel officials shook hands after the draft.

Selecting second overall, Air21 picked up Far Eastern U stalwart Arwind Santos as expected while Coca-Cola, which owns the No. 3 pick, took Joseph Yeo of La Salle.

"Picking Arwind at No. 2 is also like picking him at No. 1," said Air21 coach Bo Perasol, who solidified his frontline even more with the 6-foot-4 Santos joining bigmen Yancy De Ocampo, Ervin Sotto and Ranidel De Ocampo.

San Miguel Beer exercised its fourth pick on Ateneo's LA Tenorio and tabbed 2004 NCAA rookie-MVP Gabby Espinas of Philippine Christian U at fifth overall.

Sta. Lucia snagged FEU center Mark Isip at No. 6 to complement Williams, Isip's teammate at Magnolia in the Philippine Basketball League.

Alaska made Letran's Aaron Aban seventh overall while Aban's college teammates 6-foot-7 Mark Andaya and point guard Boyet Bautista went to Talk 'N Text and Purefoods, respectively.

Welcoat, the newest team in the league, wrapped up the first round by snaring Abby Santos of UP. The Dragons also opened the second round by drafting another Maroon in Jireh Ibañez.

The Coca-Cola Tigers, who had one first-rounder and five second round picks, chose FEU's RJ Rizada at 12th, PSBA's Manuel Caceres at 14th, Chris Pacana of St. Francis at 15th, UP's Michael Gavino at 16th and Letran's Ronjay Enrile at 17th.

The Realtors used their 13th pick overall on Mark Magsumbol of St. Benilde, the Aces drafted UST's Christian Luanzon at 18th while Ateneo's Magnum Membrere was selected at 19th overall by Red Bull.

Purefoods finished the rookie exercise, sponsored this year by Xtreme Magic Sing, Popoy's Grill, Ginebra, Converse, Gatorade, Master, Brothers Burger, Mr. Softy and Magnolia, by picking UE's Ollan Omiping at the end of the second round.

Amacu scores Naascu double

By Marc Anthony Reyes

AMA COMPUTER PULLED away in the second quarter, then coasted to a 92-80 romp over Holy Angel yesterday for its second straight win in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) basketball tournament at the UM Gym.

Chito Jaime, the 6-foot-5 MVP frontrunner, scattered 16 points to lead the Titans to their sixth win in eight games and a tie for second with STI.

The victory boosted Amacu's campaign in the next round where they will be mixing up against San Sebastian-Cavite, STI, Centro Escolar (5-3), University of Manila (5-4) and New Era (4-4).

Limuel Manarang topscored with 17 points for the Flyers (2-7).

In junior play, the SSC-Cavite Junior Bay Cats used all their players in demolishing the Baby Flyers, 80-51.

The Junior Bay Cats posted their fourth win in five games while pulling their victims further down the cellar at 0-7.

The scores:

First Game (Srs)

AMACU 92—Jaime 16, De Guzman 12, Galang 11, Mercado 9, Vergara 8, Edralin 8, Padilla 7, Galvez 6, Abac 5, Suarez 4, Dela Pena 4, Gabica 0.

HAU 80—Manarang 17, Francisco 14, Cuizon 14, Lansang 10, Tungul 10, Arevalo 6, Canlas 3, Angosta 2, Morales 2, Garcia 0.

Quarters: 21-16, 47-30, 69-55, 92-80

Second Game (Jrs)

SSC-CAV 80—Antipuesto 15, Serrano 13, Diang 13, Sanchez 7, Mendez 5, Filio 4, Navarro 4, Bautista 4, Paran 4, Ba-to 3, Plameras 3, Reyes 2, Sanarez 2, Weinstein 0, Garcia 0, Peralta 0.

HAU 51—Sadiasa 18, Salunga 12, Mamangun 6, Flores 6, Gopez 4, Pangilinan 2, Pineda 1, Ocampo 0, Balingit 0, Yumul 0, Infante 0, Pine 0.

Quarters: 20-8, 34-21, 63-27, 80-51

BATTLE FOR THIRD

De Luna nips Alcano

By Musong R. Castillo

JEFFREY DE LUNA, A 22-YEAR-OLD HIGH school dropout in chase of the great money dream in pool, last night edged veteran Ronnie Alcano, 11-9, to secure third place in the 2006 BSCP National championship at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

De Luna, who bundled out fancied bets one after the other to get this far, seized control early and played with the form of a veteran, holding off his game stablemate to win P200,000 which was the biggest bonanza in his young career.

After losing to Alex Pagulayan, 4-11, in the semifinals late Saturday night, de Luna formally announced his arrival as a legitimate force in the local circuit with his lofty finish.

He next sees action in the World Pool Championship slated Nov. 4-12 in Manila in November, part of his prize for making the top four of this P2 million event that dangles P1 million to the champion.

De Luna won six of the first nine racks and was able to get himself out of trouble every time Alcano crept to within one. He won two straight games for a 9-6 edge before Alcano's last-ditch rally pruned the gap to 10-9.

JEFFREY de Luna formally announces his arrival as a legitimate force in the local circuit.

Alcano lost a golden chance to pull even in the 20th rack. After trailing by as many as three racks early, the native of Calamba, Laguna was doomed when his attempt on the No. 4 ball rattled out of the corner pocket, giving de Luna the chance to finish out the match.

"I was ready to lose (had Alcano pulled even)," de Luna, who started playing money games since he was eight, told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

"Ronnie was breaking well and had he equalized and gotten to break in the next game, I knew I was done for," added de Luna.

Pagulayan was slugging it out with good friend Gandy Valle in the race-to-13 finals at presstime.

Pascua, Butac coast to third Milo 21K wins

LAOAG CITY—IT WAS NO contest.

Reynaldo Pascua and Vilma Butac yesterday cruised to their third straight title in the Ilocos Norte leg of the 30th National Milo Marathon here yesterday.

The 36-year-old Pascua pulled away from Laoag teammates Randy Basilio and Rabin Dalog halfway through the 21K race and retained his crown with a time of one hour, 11 minutes and nine seconds.

Basilio crossed the finish line in 1:12:59 for second and Dalog came in third in 1:13:39 to preserve the same 1-2-3 finish in the men's race since 2004.

Confident of claiming her third crown since she started joining the 21K race in 2004, Butac did not even train for the event but still won unchallenged.

Butac completed the 21K course in one hour, 56 minutes and 33 seconds, more than 30 minutes ahead of second placer Christia Mae Suguitan (2:27:33).

"I'm busy with school so I was not able to train," said the 21-year-old Butac in Filipino. A graduating education student of Mariano Marcos State University in October, Butac said she would train hard only in the national finals in Decemer.

The top three runners in the men's and women's divisions qualified to the Dec. 10 finals in Metro Manila, where Pascua promised to improve following a 30th place finish last year.

Provincial board member Michael Keon, who is also the local race organizer, fired the starting gun that flagged off a record field of 9,089 runners in front of the Ilocos Norte Capitol building.

He also helped Milo Sports Events executive Pat Goc-ong in handing the trophies and medals to the top 10 winners in all divisions of the event held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Department of Tourism and Powerbar.

The top three finishers in the 5K fun run were Romero Dalog, Glenn Balena and Silver Dacuycuy in the men's division and Vanessa Lea Marcos, Jhelly Ann Suguitan and Criselda Melchor in the women's.

The winners in the kiddies 3K race were Robert Pascual and Odeth Anacleto in the 6-9 age group and Nicson Jey Miguel and Ginalyn Dacuycuy in the 10-12 bracket.

Next week, more than 20,000 runners are expected when the 30-leg Milo Marathon holds its 16th elimination race in Cebu City.

REYNALDO Pascua (left) and Vilma Butac show their trophies. They advanced to the Milo Marathon national finals on Dec. 10.

Nadera outplays La Union whiz kid

BAGUIO CITY—INTERNATIONAL Master Barlo Nadera outplayed 11-year-old Brena Mae Membrere of San Fernando City yesterday to lead first-round winners in the 2006 Cordillera Open chess tournament at the Baguio Country Club.

Nadera prevailed over Membrere with white in just 28 moves of a Queen's Indian Defense.

Other notable early winners in the nine-round Swiss tournament that stakes a cash pot of P110,000 were IM Ronald Bancod and National Master Mirabeau Maga, Ali Branzuela of Parañaque City and Nazario Ubanan.

Bancod defeated Francisco Collado in 26 moves of King's Indian Defense; Maga beat Patrick Dulay in 45 of a King's Pawn Game; Branzuela routed Gilbert Egme in 22 of a Sicilian Skirmish and Ubanan waylaid Emilito Bagay in 44 of a Sicilian Defense.

Marlon Bernardino

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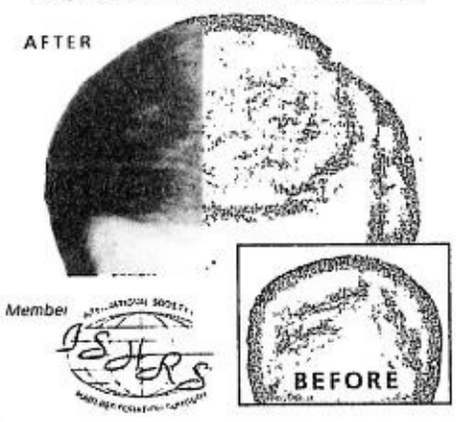

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MERDEKA MEET

Tagaytay, 2 other RP chess teams ahead

DEFENDING CHAMPION TAgaytay City and two Philippine squads swept past their opponents to occupy the top three spots after six rounds in the 2006 Merdeka Chess Team Championship in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Bannered by Grandmasters Joey Antonio and Nelson Mariano, the team of Tagaytay Mayor and National Chess Federation secretary-general Bambol Tolentino blanked Tarakan of Indonesia, 4-0, even as the teams of NCFP president Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay—Surigao del Sur and Cantilan—also posted similar scores against their respective rivals to stay in contention for the title.

Surigao del Sur, backstopped by Olympian Oliver Dimakiling and IM Yves Rañola, shut out Astro I, 4-0, while Cantilan had a surprisingly easy 4-0 victory against Filway, another RP team led by GM Mark Paragua.

After six rounds, Tagaytay has 20.5 points, a full point ahead of Surigao del Sur, which has 19.5. Cantilan shares third spot with Bhayangkara of Indonesia at 17.5, followed by Vietnam A and Tarakan with 17.0 each, Indonesia's Ina Bangkit (16.5), Pavin Star of Singapore (15.5) and Malay Master of Malaysia (15.5).

It was the impressive performances of GMs Antonio and Mariano and Surigao del Sur's Dimakiling which have powered the Filipinos.

Maghirang, Garcia shine in ER monthly

JOSELITO MAGHIRANG AND senior player Romulo Garcia turned in the big numbers for their partners as they clinched the top awards in their respective divisions in the members' monthly tournament of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Maghirang, teaming up with Joven Cortez, and Garcia, playing with elder brother Roland, both assembled net scores of 62 points—eight under par under the Molave system, with full handicaps—as they won the Division 3 and Seniors titles, respectively.

Maghirang and Cortez, who made 55, finished with 117 for an 11-shot victory over the tandem of Danilo Batino and Manolo Antonio in the tourney played at Eagle's Faldo course.

The Garcias also emerged the runaway victors in their group with Roland contributing 51. Their 113 total was 10 shots better than the 103 submitted by Carlos Agustin and Adello Domingo.

Koreans Kim Hyun-su and Yun Jaw-wong took Division 1 in a countback, Arnel Pareja and Irineo Arbues prevailed in Division 2 and the pair of Shirley Tiu-Rizza Uy won the ladies division by a hairline.

Yun and Kim had 56 and 52, respectively, to match the 108 of Arnel Agustin and Jeric Ang. The Koreans, however, had a better nine-hole score, 53 to 51.

Pareja and Arbues came up with similar efforts of 59.

SULPICIO BACKS NBC ANEW: National Basketball Conference (NBC) secretary general Tito Palma and Sulpicio Lines VP Harold Y. Go seal with a handshake the league's partnership with the giant shipping firm for the second conference of the 2006 NBC season, which starts on Sept. 9. "We have had a very fruitful relationship with NBC, so we've decided to keep our partnership with it," said Go. Sulpicio Lines will be the official carrier of the country's leading regional cagefest for the third straight year.

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Guest Celebrities
Robert Jaworski Sr. (Ribbon Cutting & Speech)
Ronnie Rickets
Justine Gablonza (Ms. Tourism International 2006)
Bobby Pacquiao (WBC Continental Super Feather Weight Champion)
Jerick Ternida (1st Muscle Mania World Champion 2003)
Victoria Agbayani
Allan Caidic
Mark Caguioa
Jay-Jay Helterbrand
Gary David
Mark Pingris
Willie Arboleda
Ryan Ramos
Ric Pinnisi
Anton de Loria
Abstract Dancers
EB Babes
Michelle Bumgarner (Asian Cart Queen)
Glydel Mercado
Ysabel Granada
Emilio Garcia
Nelson Asuncion
Kennie Asuncion
Vic Asuncion
Alma Ledesma
Toby Gadi
Jobette Co
Team Bullit

FREE SEMINARS

Time Slot	August 24, 2006	August 25, 2006	August 26, 2006
11:00 - 11:45			Wall Climbing Introduction by Apexthreme
1:00 - 1:45	Sports Nutrition by Herbalife	Triathlon Introduction By Ramon Marchan of Triathlon Association of the Phils.	
2:00 - 2:45	First Aid & Basic Life Support by Red Cross of the Phils	First Aid & Basic Life Support by Red Cross of the Phils	First Aid & Basic Life Support by Red Cross of the Phils
3:30 - 4:15	XP 180 Blastolyn for Cancer Prevention Treatment and Cure Program by AIGS Marketing Corp	IP Star Satellite Solution on Time on Site Sports News Gathering by AIGS Marketing Corp	XP 180 Blastolyn for Cancer Prevention Treatment and Cure Program by AIGS Marketing Corp

EXHIBIT HOURS
Aug.24 - 9am to 11 am (Opening Ceremony)
11 am to 8 pm
Aug.25 - 10am to 8pm
Aug.26 - 10am to 8pm

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8 p.m.—Germany vs Spain (Solar Sports)

Tiger on prowl

Grabs share of PGA lead

MEDINAH, ILLINOIS—FIRM AND FAST, LONG AND soft. It doesn't matter how they present the stage, when it's a major championship, the leading man remains Tiger Woods.

A month removed from his scintillating winning performance in rock-hard conditions at the British Open, Woods has gotten to the doorstep of a second straight major conquest and his 12th overall. Playing near flawless golf at a Medinah Country Club that has been transformed into a dartboard, Woods matched his lowest major score—a 7-under-par 65—in yesterday's third round of the 88th PGA Championship to get into a share of the lead with Luke Donald (66) at 14-under 202.

It is at this point that people drag out the numbers that matter: In the 11 times Woods has had at least a share of the 54-hole lead in a major, he has won 11 times. His colleagues are aware of his record, but they have vowed to be in attendance today and since six of them are within five, they profess hope.

"I know everyone's expectations are that he's going to go out and win the championship," said Mike Weir. "But there's always a time to stop the streak."

The Canadian can talk optimistically after a blistering 65 vaulted him into solo third at 12-under 204.

"It doesn't feel like a major, in a sense," said Woods. "In a major, mostly you make pars and sprinkle in a birdie or two. Today, it was different. You had to go out there and make a bunch of birdies."

With 28 players posting subpar rounds, 19 in the 60s, there are six players in double-digit red numbers, with Geoff Ogilvy (68) alone in fourth at 11-under 205 and both Sergio Garcia (67) and 2003 champion Shaun Micheel (67) tied for fifth at 10 under.

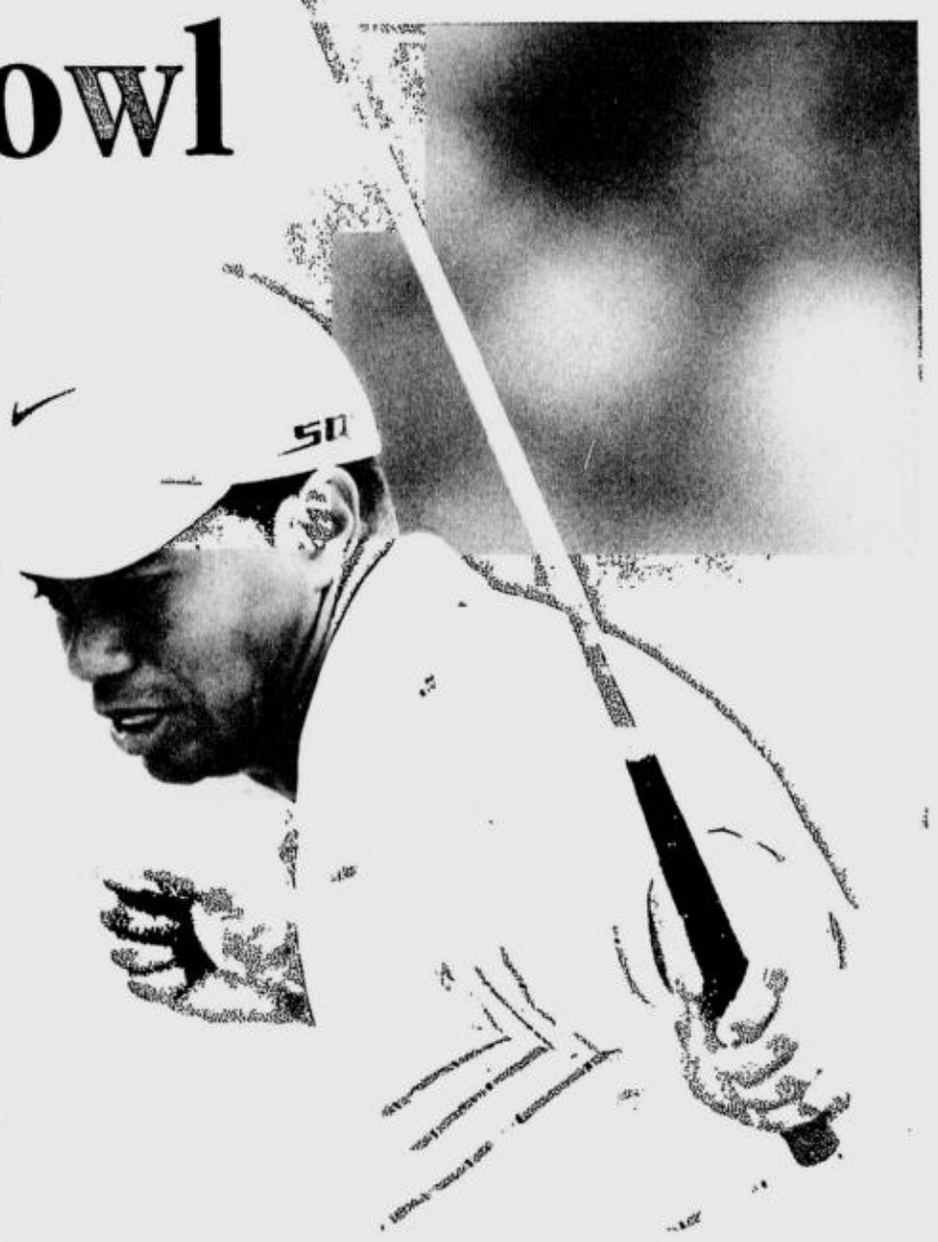
"You know, it's different than most major championships," said Woods, and several players agreed.

"It's playing too easy for a major," said Steve Flesch.

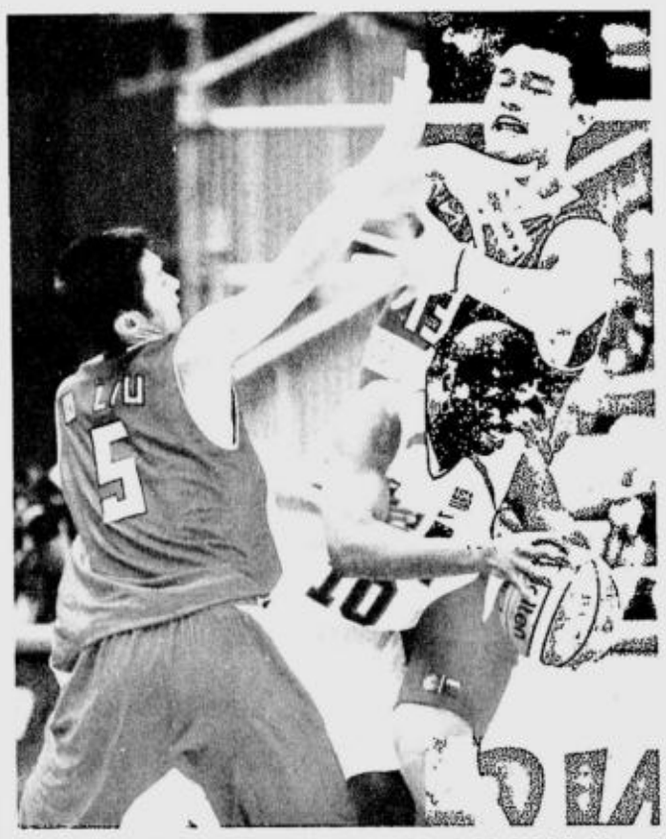
Jay Haas, 52, agreed with the sentiment, but disagreed with those who felt the 88th PGA Championship doesn't have the feel of a major.

"No, no, no, no," said Haas. "Look who's up there."

Indeed, it's him. Again. NYTimes News Service



TIGER Woods is on track for another dominating major victory. AP



US GUARD Chris Paul sneaks past China's Liu Wei (left) and Yao Ming (right). China remains winless after it lost to Italy, 84-69, late Saturday night. REUTERS

US drubs China; Germany, Argentina cruise past foes

SAPPORO, JAPAN—DWYANE WADE SCORED 26 points and the United States used a swarming defense to make life miserable for Yao Ming and China on its way to a 121-90 victory that leaves it unbeaten at the World Championships.

The Americans needed less than four minutes to build their first double-digit lead and led by as many as 36. Carmelo Anthony and Dwight Howard had 16 points each, Chris Paul 13 and LeBron James 11.

The United States headed into Group D's off day with a 2-0 record, tied with Italy for first place. China (0-2) is tied with Senegal at the bottom. The top four teams in the six-team pool advance.

In Hamamatsu, Japan, Argentina, Germany and Angola won their second straight games—all convincingly—putting them in good positions to advance to the second round.

Italy and Turkey also went to 2-0, but had to stage comebacks over Slovenia and Australia, respectively.

Argentina, the 2004 Olympic champion, beat Lebanon, 107-72, to remain the only unbeaten team in Group A, while Germany defeated New Zealand, 80-56, in Group B.

Angola also stayed unbeaten in Group B and kept Japan winless with an 87-62 win over the host country at Hiroshima.

Turkey, led by forward Irsan Ilyasova's 17 points, beat Australia, 76-68, to remain the only unbeaten team in Group C.

Italy, meanwhile, edged Slovenia, 80-76, in a Group D game at Saporro. The Italians trailed, 68-66, with five minutes remaining before pulling away for the win.

The 24 teams are playing five preliminary games each in four groups across Japan. The top four teams in each group advance to the second round after round-robin play ends Thursday, with the gold medal game set for Sept. 3 in Saitama near Tokyo.

At Sendai, Victor Diaz scored 24 points to lead Venezuela to an 84-77 win over Nigeria, leaving both teams with 1-1 records.

"Victor is our most experienced player and he hit some huge shots for us today," said Venezuela coach Nestor Salazar.

COMPLETE RESULTS: Venezuela 84, Nigeria 77; Argentina 107, Lebanon 72; France 65, Serbia-Montenegro 61; Angola 87, Japan 62; Germany 80, New Zealand 56; Spain 101, Panama 57; Brazil 97, Qatar 66; Turkey 76, Australia 68; Greece 81, Lithuania 76 (OT); Puerto Rico 88, Senegal 79; Italy 80, Slovenia 76; United States 121, China 90

US swimmers shatter world records anew

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA—AARON Peirsol defeated fellow American Michael Phelps by 2.37 seconds with a world record in the 200-meter backstroke at the Pan Pacific Championships on Saturday night.

But Phelps wasn't down for long.

About 20 minutes later, he returned to lead the US' 400 freestyle relay that set a world record.

In the backstroke showdown between the rivals, Peirsol touched in 1 minute, 54.44 seconds—0.22 seconds better than the mark he set at last year's World Championships in Montreal.

"This is probably the best swim of my life," he said.

"Today was my day," Peirsol added. "I respect him for being in this race."

It's an event Peirsol has dominated since the 2000 Sydney Olympics, the last time he lost a 200. He won the 100 back on Thursday.

It was Phelps' first loss of the four-day meet, having won gold medals in the 200 butterfly, 400 individual medley and 800 free relay.

He was timed in 1:56.81.

"I knew I had enough energy to bring it home," Peirsol said. "I saw Michael next to me and I knew I had to start opening some distance. Without anyone next to me, I wouldn't have done that."

Phelps had enough energy left over to team with Neil Walker, relay newcomer Cullen Jones and Jason Lezak for a world record in the 400 free relay. They won in 3:12.46.

Tae Hwan Park, a teenager from South Korea, won the men's 400 free in 3:45.72, overtaking American Klete Keller on the last lap. Keller faded to third, earning a bronze to go with the gold he won in the 200 free.

"It was just a bad race. My grandma can swim faster," he said. "I had one good race and one bad one, so I guess I broke even." *AP*

Smart ride gives Malangsa CSI win

RODOLFO MALANGSA OF DIONY Auto Supply attacked relentlessly to rule the Open-Pro category in the first leg of the 4th Cycling Search Invitational (CSI4) before a huge Saturday crowd at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City.

The 22-year-old Malangsa, whose best finish in the CSI races was a couple of third-place finishes in the junior division last season, set a blistering pace and wisely picked up his points.

Sherwin Carrera of Jazzy Sports settled for runner-up honors, while veteran Merculio Ramos of Philippine Army was third.

With the win, Malangsa collected a total of 24 points, Carrera earned 17 and Ramos 14.

The pre-race favorites, led by veteran internationalist Victor Espiritu, tried to keep pace with the leaders but tired out in the middle stretches of the 24-lap race around the 1.8-km elliptical road.

Espiritu settled for 10th place, while Bernard Luzon, who finished second overall behind Espiritu last season, failed to land in the Top 10.

Former four-time Marlboro Tour sprint king Enrique Domingo ruled the Masters Division, followed by Placido Valdez and Norberto Oconer.

In the women's side of the elite division, Marita Lucas emerged as champion, followed by Kay Lopez and Bing Alto. All three are members of the David Salon all-women squad.

Stephen Romanquin of Excellent Jonchi topped the elite division.

In the team events, Diony Auto Supply topped the pro-open category, Hubert Hubs and Wheels was second, while Sustagen was third in event presented by Philpost and sponsored by PCSO, Lamoiyan Corp., Landbank, Smart, Speed Detergent, Pagcor and Burlington, with media partners dzSR Sports Radio, NU 107 FM, YES 101.FM, Siklista Magazine, The Daily Tribune, Malaya, The Manila Times, Manila Standard Today, Business Mirror, Mirror Magazine, Graphics and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Hingis makes finals, waits for opponent

MONTREAL—MARTINA HINGIS reached the Rogers Cup final when Anna Chakvetadze quit during the second set Saturday because of an injured right arm.

Hingis will have to wait to find out her opponent in the finals because a driving rain forced postponement of the other semifinal between Ana Ivanovic and Dinara Safina with Ivanovic leading, 6-1, 3-4.

Hingis led, 6-3, 3-1, when her 19-year-old Russian opponent informed the chair umpire she could not continue. Chakvetadze stopped after her fourth on-court visit from a trainer, prompting a smattering of boos from the Uniprix Stadium crowd.

"It's kind of disappointing to win a match like this, but I was already up a set and 3-1," Hingis said. "She was hurting, but she continued. You still have to keep your focus and make her play because you don't know how much it's hurting."

Chakvetadze was the seventh player in the tournament to either withdraw from a match or fail to finish because of injury. Several stars pulled out even before the hard-court event began.

Hingis will rejoin the top 10 for the first time since 2002. The Swiss star was once ranked No. 1, and from 1996-02 won more than 40 tournaments, including five majors. She left the WTA Tour for three years because of injuries. *AP*

HINGIS: Headed for top 10 AP

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Gov't to push sale of high-value stakes

Shares in PLDT, Meralco, San Miguel prioritized

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SAID THE GOVERNment was readying the options on how to sell its shares in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., San Miguel Corp. and Manila Electric Co. before the end of the year.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the government was intent on privatizing its uncontested stakes in these money-making companies as well as selling immediately the disputed shares that would be decided by the courts in favor of the government.

"There are a number of activities that need to be resolved, but we are trying our best to see how much of the shares we can sell within the year," Teves stressed.

Acting Finance Undersecretary John Sevilla, who is overseeing the privatization program, stressed that the government's policy was to dispose the shares in all three companies.

"We are doing everything we can do to hasten that process outside of the courts but keeping within what we need to follow in terms of the law. We are preparing so that the moment that we have legal clearance to do what we need to do, we can move very fast," he said.

Sevilla noted that the legality of the government's plan to sell the shares has yet to be decided by the courts.

The Supreme Court earlier forfeited in favor of the government some P54 billion worth of PLDT shares held by Prime Holdings Inc., saying these were part of the ill-gotten wealth of

GOV'T/ B2

IN THIS ISSUE

■ Ortigas feud rekindled /B3
■ Investors seek out RP assets /B10

Big push to woo Koreans to live in RP

By Jerry E. Esplanada

DAEJEON, SOUTH KOREA—A perceived peace and order problem. Apprehensions over the political situation. Delay in the modernization of public infrastructures.

Notwithstanding those weaknesses, the government's foreign retirees program still managed to bring in more than $123 million in additional revenue from 2001 to 2005.

But the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) thinks it's not good enough.

The agency is set to launch shortly a worldwide campaign, which PRA chair Edgar Aglipay calls "Come (to the Philippines) and be our family."

"It will be an intensive PR and marketing campaign like Malaysia's 'Truly Asia' and Thailand's 'Amazing Thailand' tourism drives. And we firmly believe it would be good to start with the Koreans," Aglipay said.

The plan is to promote the Philippines as the Koreans' "second home."

South Korea is a "potential gold mine" as far as the Philippine retirement industry is concerned, according to the former chief of the Philippine National Police.

In 2001, South Korea had a population of 47.9 million, 34.07 million of whom were classified as either active or retiring while 3.48 million were either retired or elderly. Minors totaled 10.3 million.

Aglipay told the INQUIRER that the South Koreans "obviously like Filipinos and what we have, and there is mutual respect and love for each other. Add to that the fact that there are now more Koreans in the Philippines than Filipinos in South Korea."

Aglipay's claims are affirmed by, among others, the print media here like the Korea Times, which reported recently that

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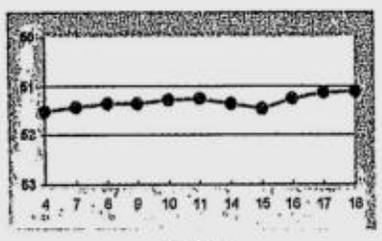

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STOCK MARKET

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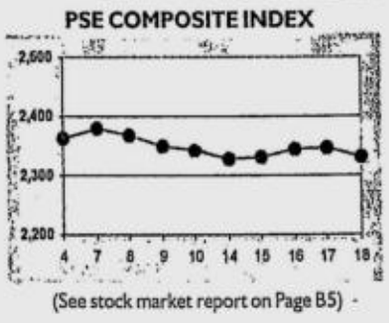

(See stock market report on Page B5)

LACKLUSTER TRADING IS EXpected this week as investors digest the slew of second-quarter income results, analysts said.

The market is closed today, a special non-working holiday to commemorate "Ninoy Aquino Day."

"Sessions could trend sideways as participants spot for significant market-moving news that could support aggressive bargain hunting in local equities," online broker 2TradeAsia.com said.

Trading was listless last week as investors focused largely on third-line stocks. The PSE index fell 0.5 percent or 11.6 percent to 2,329.90.

AB Capital Securities wrote in a weekly note to clients that the US market's modest three-day rally also failed to rev up interest in the local stocks.

"Easing interest and inflation worries from the huge drop in crude

SLOW/ B5

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BCDA, John Hay developer eye deal on P2.2B in claims

Payment-in-kind arrangement being worked out

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT Authority and the developer of its John Hay property in Baguio City are in the process of evaluating assets for a proposed payment-in-kind arrangement related to arrears that have accumulated to at least P2.2 billion.

BCDA president and chief executive Narciso Abaya said the assets involved would include suites and other living facilities in the former American military facility.

The arrangement would also entail the return to BCDA—through its subsidiary John Hay Development Corp.—of some nine hectares of land or half of the area that remained undeveloped.

Abaya said the proposal was part of CJH Development Corp.'s restructuring program, the third since the firm got possession of the property through a lease agreement signed in 1996.

Since then, lease payments have reached a total of some P3 billion, of which CJHDevCo was able to pay only about P800 million

Abaya said that if the BCDA agreed to a dacion en pago (payment in kind), this would be the second time for CJHDevCo to take this option to cover unpaid lease payments.

CAMP JOHN HAY MANOR

BCDA officials said details of the arrangement would be fleshed out soon.

BCDA-JHMC and CJHDevCo are still on a legal impasse concerning the former's termination of the lease contract and takeover of management of the John Hay property last year.

In June 2005, CJHDevCo filed the case against BCDA to compel the government to enter into arbitration to resolve various disputes over the lease of John Hay.

The dispute resulted from a Supreme Court decision that voided tax and financial incentives in the John Hay special economic zone and to enjoin BCDA from taking over the leased areas of Camp John Hay.

CJHDevCo senior vice president Ma. Georgina A. Alvarez said the ruling meant that pending an arbitration, the BCDA was barred from implementing the termination and cancellation of the lease agreement that it issued last April.

Alvarez said the BCDA was also prevented from communicating directly with CJHDevCo sub-locators, concessionaires, sub-lessees, investors, buyers and other clients; from soliciting and entertaining any new investors for the lease and development of Camp John Hay, and from taking over possession and operations of the leased premises.

Big push to woo Koreans to live in RP

From page B1

"more Koreans look to retire in the Philippines"

Said the daily: "For the past three decades, the Philippine government has been promoting the country as a retirement haven for foreigners. However, it is only in the last few years that they have actively sought Korean retirees."

Attractions

"Relying on its tropical weather, friendly people and low cost of living, the Philippines is touting itself as Asia's retirement haven to attract foreigners, especially Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Americans and Europeans."

The paper quoted Aglipay as having said that the government was "focusing on the Korean market because of the sheer volume of Koreans visiting the Philippines."

Koreans reportedly make up nearly 20 percent of foreign tourists to the Philippines.

Between January and April this year, more than 180,000 Korean tourists arrived in Manila, an increase of 10 percent over 2005 figures.

"With beach resorts in Boracay (Aklan), Cebu and Palawan always filled with Korean tourists, the Philippines' popularity as a leisure destination is undeniable. A Filipino resort owner said there are more Korean tourists in Boracay than Filipinos during summer," said the Korea Times.

Department of Tourism records showed that a total of 489,465 Koreans visited the country last year. There were 207,957 in 2001, 288,468 in 2002, 303,867 in 2003 and 378,602 Korean visitors in 2004.

According to the Korean newspaper, "the main attractions for Koreans traveling to the Philippines are the warm weather, low cost of living, good business opportunities and English-language education."

It also noted that "while Seoul continues to rank as one of the most expensive cities in the world (actually second after Moscow, according to a recent Newsweek magazine report), Manila has consistently been ranked as one of the least expensive."

"Living on 2 million won a month for Korean retirees in Seoul would be difficult. However, 2 million won converted into Philippine pesos or roughly P110,000 ($2,075) would make for easy living in the Philippines. For instance, a sizeable house in a gated community or a posh condominium unit can be rented for P20,000 to P30,000 a month (370,000 to 550,000 Korean won). For that money, the retirees can also have a car, driver, maid and send their children to a good school, and be able to live comfortably," the paper said.

'Korea towns'

The broadsheet also reported that "Koreans living in the Philippines should not get homesick as 'Korea towns' pop all over the country."

"One of the most well-known is in Barangay Poblacion in Makati (City). Here, there are dozens of Korean restaurants, churches, schools and supermarkets selling instant *ramyon* and kimchi. Even some Filipino-owned stores have signs written in Korean. Aside from Makati, many Korean retirees also choose to settle in quieter provincial cities such as Clark, Subic, Davao and Baguio."

The paper also featured Korean businessman Kim In-duk who had chosen to retire in Metro Manila because "the living conditions in the Philippines are better than in Korea."

The 62-year-old Kim lives with his wife and two sons in a Makati condominium. They have a vacation home in nearby Tagaytay City and "enjoy traveling the Philippines in their free time."

"Kim does not have any plans to live again in South Korea, saying he is content with his life in Manila. He is literally the poster boy for the Philippine (government) retirement program, since his face is displayed in pamphlets written in Korean and distributed around South Korea," including the Daejeon metropolitan city, a two-hour drive from Seoul and about 350 kilometers south of the Demilitarized Zone, which separates South Korea from the communist north.

The INQUIRER traveled to Daejeon upon the invitation of the same Korean business group, which established the Philippine-Korean Cultural House in the South Korean capital.

The group, led by Son Jong Sun, James Kim and David Song, has vowed to promote not just Philippine cultural activities but also the PRA program.

Investors

In March, the PRA accredited at least 55 retirement villages and other facilities throughout the Philippines.

Just recently, a Korean business group expressed interest in putting up a retirement village in Nasugbu, Batangas, disclosed Aglipay.

But China still has the "greatest potential of all PRA's focus markets (worldwide) due to its size."

"The Philippines, through its SRRV mechanism, can tap into the motivations of the Chinese by presenting itself as a business destination and a location where Chinese entrepreneurs and businessmen can develop satellite offices and alternative businesses for their existing operations in mainland China."

Retirees visa

Applying for a Special Resident Retirees Visa (SRRV) in the Philippines is relatively easy. Applicants must be foreign nationals, 35 years old and above. Those aged 35 to 49 are required to make a cash deposit of $75,000, while those over 50 need to post cash deposit of $50,000.

The SRRV is a non-immigrant, multiple entry visa. It gives a foreigner the right to reside permanently in the Philippines.

SRRV benefits include exemption from the following: exit clearance and re-entry permit, Bureau of Customs duties and taxes for the importation of personal effects worth up to $7,000, special study permit, and the Bureau of Immigration's annual registration requirements.

Other benefits include tax-free remittance of annuities and pensions, guaranteed repatriation of retirement deposit and government assistance in obtaining an Alien Employment Permit.

South Korean retirees "can do almost everything except buy land and vote in the elections," according to Aglipay.

In the Philippines, he noted, Korean retirees could "experience hospitality, friendliness and innate respect and love for the elderly."

Aglipay also promised the Koreans "wherever your travels take you in our 7,107 islands, you will experience the unique charm of this historic land. Filipinos' zest for life has made us a world-class professional human resource."

For sure, he said, the Philippines was "definitely better than Malaysia or Thailand as retirees' destination this side of the globe."

"There are around 12 million Filipinos all over the world and that's already half of the population of Malaysia. They're highly skilled and caring people and definitely world-class. That's why, the Malaysians cannot claim they are better than us," he added.

Who are the poor?

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

GOVERNMENT STATISTICS ESTIMATE THAT three out of every 10 (30 percent) Filipinos are poor. The World Bank estimates it at just a little over one out of 10 (13 percent). The Social Weather Stations (SWS) counts six out of 10 (59 percent). And the Ibon Foundation says it's nine out of 10 (88 percent). Who is right? What is the real picture of poverty in the Philippines?

Defining the poor

Why the wide differences among the estimates? The answer, of course, lies in how one defines being "poor."

The World Bank's figure is based on a convenient but highly imperfect global standard of $1 a day as the poverty threshold. They also keep track of the numbers who live on less than $2 a day, defined as "near poor," and in the Philippines, the figure is 46 percent. The figures stated are as of 2001.

The government places the national average poverty line at P12,309 a year, or about P33.72 a day as of 2003. For a family of five, this translates to about P169 a day, leading to an estimated poverty incidence of 24.7 percent of families, lower than the 30 percent figure based on population or headcount.

Ibon Foundation arrives at its poverty figure using an estimated minimum daily cost of living per family of P435 as of 2002.

SWS's approach is simple: survey respondents are simply asked if they feel or consider themselves poor. Thus, their 59-percent poverty incidence figure is termed as "self-rated poverty."

Poverty line

How does one estimate the poverty line?

The National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) undertakes the most elaborate approach. It begins with computing the minimum cost of the food items needed to satisfy basic nutritional requirements (food threshold), as determined by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI). The food menu defining the food threshold differs across the regions to account for differing dietary habits and food availabilities. A differentiation is also made between rural and urban food menus. The food threshold, also called the subsistence threshold, is computed separately for every province within the region, to allow for provincial differences in food prices. There are further complications due to price differences among various types and varieties of specific food items. For example, in the case of rice, which is the single biggest item in the food menu, the price of the cheapest variety available in the province is used in computing the provincial food threshold.

To account for the non-food items in the threshold poor's consumption basket, data from the Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES) is used. Here, the non-food expenditure patterns of households lying within the 10-percent range around the provincial food threshold are the basis for identifying minimum non-food budget items.

The poverty line is derived as the cost of basic food and non-food requirements, computed as described above, and defined separately for each province.

Where they are

Poverty data have been reported at the national and regional levels since 1985, and at the provincial level since 1997. The latest poverty estimates for 2003 now go down further to the municipal and city levels, made possible by a small area estimation and poverty mapping technique developed by a World Bank research team.

The poorest province, with 65 percent of families under the poverty line, is Zamboanga del Norte, which registered a dramatic rise from 47 percent in 2000. Maguindanao comes in second with 60 percent, followed by Masbate (56 percent), which has given up its number one spot in 2000 when it came in at 61 percent.

The town of Hajji Panglima Tahil (Marunggas) in Sulu has the worst poverty at almost 90 percent as of 2003, followed by Bulalacao (San Pedro) in Oriental Mindoro with 87 percent. Of the 40 poorest towns, all with poverty incidence at 74 percent and above, 28 are in Mindanao, 10 are in Luzon, and only two are in the Visayas, both in Aklan. Lanao del Sur, Sulu and Maguindanao account for the largest numbers of poorest municipalities, with nine, eight and seven towns respectively.

Beyond income

Still, all of the above data pertain to poverty as measured through income alone. It is now well acknowledged that poverty must be seen in its multiple dimensions. Social, environmental, political, cultural and spiritual dimensions have as much to do with human welfare as what can be simply measured in pesos and centavos. This is where SWS's self-rated poverty measure adds value to purely income-based measure offered by the others. After all, and as the Scriptures say, man does not live on bread alone.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Gov't borrowings down 10.4% in first 7 months

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT BORROWED P341.48 billion in the first seven months of the year to help finance its operations and pay off maturing obligations.

This was 10.4-percent lower than the P381.16 billion a year ago as the improving fiscal condition reduced the government's need to borrow.

The borrowings from January to July this year comprised 65 percent of the P522.64-billion programmed borrowing for the entire 2006.

Of the total for the seven-month period, P280.1 billion was used to settle maturing obligations—P37 billion of which were foreign liabilities and P243.1 billion were domestic loans.

In terms of sources of financing, P128.54 billion of the total borrowings in the first seven months came from foreign creditors and investors while P212.94 billion were from locals. This represented a borrowing mix of 62:38 in favor of domestic borrowings.

The government has adopted a policy of borrowing more from local sources to minimize exposure to foreign exchange risk. A depreciation of the peso makes the government's foreign loans more expensive to pay.

The borrowing mix as of July was within the 52:48 borrowing mix (in favor of domestic credit) set as a ceiling by fiscal authorities for the entire 2006.

Foreign borrowings are usually made through the flotation of sovereign bonds or those that come in the form of official development assistance coming from multilateral and bilateral agencies. The Philippines' biggest ODA sources are the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

Domestic borrowings are undertaken through the regular auctions of treasury bills and bond.

In July alone, the government borrowed P38.96 billion, of which P3.42 billion comprised foreign liabilities and P35.54 billion represented credit from domestic sources.

The year-on-year drop in the amount of borrowings in the first seven months followed the decline in the budget deficit of the national government. The drop in the budget gap reduced the government's need to borrow.

In the January-to-July period, the government's deficit hit only P48.5 billion, lower than the P82.6 billion recorded in the same period last year.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the government was poised to cut its total borrowing program for the year as a result of the declining deficit.

"Given that our deficit is much less, the Bureau of the Treasury will now adjust its borrowing requirements. It does not want to overborrow and carry on money that it does not need for its operations," Cruz said in a briefing last week on the government's fiscal position.

Gov't to push sale . . .

From page B1

former President Marcos. The court decision, however, has been appealed for review.

The government also has an interest in SMC. This included the 24-percent stake sequestered by the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), the 7-percent interest of the Social Security System (SSS), and another 7 percent held by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

The government is likewise claiming the 20-percent stake currently owned by business tycoon and SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., alleging that the shares were also bought using ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses.

The government likewise owns 212.12 million shares representing 12.03 percent of the total capital stock of Meralco.

The Arroyo administration has adopted the policy of boosting its privatization as a means to help shore up its revenues. The administration said it preferred giving up its assets that are better run by the private sector.

Aside from shares in the big, profitable firms, other asset are likewise lined up for privatization, among them Philippine Postal Corp., shares in Maynilad Water Inc., Al-Amanah Islamic Bank, and television firms RPN-9 and IBC-13.

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Ortigas feud rekindled

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE FEUD AMONG the landed Ortigas clan has been rekindled, with the Lanuza, Campos and Olbes cousins filing a new claim on the 20.6-hectare Ortigas district property also being contested by the PCGG.

The intervention in the Sandiganbayan case has revived memories of the bitter 1985 break among the cousins, when the Lanuza, Campos and Olbes branch broke off from Ortigas and Co. Ltd. Partnership to form Greenhills Properties Inc. In the process, the 108-hectare Ortigas district was carved up between Greenhills Properties—which has investments in Philrealty and, until recently, iBank—and Ortigas and Co.

The breakup also resulted in the 16-hectare Greenhills shopping center remaining solely in the hands of the Ortigas partnership. According to the grapevine, the intervention was filed amid the ongoing out-of-court talks between the Ortigases and the Presidential Commission on Good Government, where, in exchange for the dropping of claims and counterclaims in the two-decade-old litigation, the Ortigas partnership would get one-fourth of the contested property, and the government obtaining three-fourths, or about 15.45 hectares.

The government obtained possession of the bulk of the contested property, 18.5 hectares, after tycoon Jose Yao Campos surrendered the shares of a Marcos front company in the aftermath of the 1986 Edsa Revolt.

According to the grapevine, Ortigas and Co. president Rafael Ortigas Jr. was particularly hurt with the new suit especially since his cousins filed the motion for intervention only last month, as the partnership was celebrating its 75th anniversary.

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PELAC Global Bond Fund	US$ 1.0914	US$ 1.0915

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
*Unit price net of insurance cost

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Investment Funds	Net Asset Value Per Unit (NAVPU) as of 8/10/2006	as of 8/17/2006
Philamlife Dollar Bond Fund	1.2030	1.2069
Philamlife Global Bond Fund	1.0952	1.0981

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Investment Funds	Net Asset Value Per Unit (NAVPU) as of 8/10/2006	as of 8/17/2006
Philamlife Fixed Income Fund	1.2502	1.2623
Philamlife Equity Fund	1.3202	1.3497

Fund prices are net of transaction costs. These investment funds are specific for variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
PHILAM LIFE

Uniwide trims losses

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

UNIWIDE HOLDings Inc. said it trimmed its net losses in the second quarter to P31.5 million from P356 million in the same period last year due to provisions it made for possible losses in 2005, the company said in its financial report.

For the first six months, Uniwide also cut its net losses by 85 percent to P60 million from the P397 million in net loss in the same period last year.

Uniwide said that in 2005, it made provisions of P1.2 billion for possible losses due from affiliates as a result of dacion en pago (payment-in-kind) transactions in line with the company's rehabilitation plan.

Uniwide registered consolidated revenues of P68.9 million in the first six months from P75.2 million in the same period last year, a decrease of 8.4 percent due to lower rental revenues and franchise fees.

In the second quarter, revenues dipped to P33 million from P37 million in the same quarter last year.

Operating expenses in the first six months dropped to P142.2 million in the first six months from P155.1 million in the same period last year. The improvement in operating expenses was due to cash savings and cost-cutting measures on professional fees, rental expenses and personnel-related expenses.

In the second quarter, operating expenses were likewise lower at P71.6 million from P76.2 million in the same quarter last year.

To date, Uniwide operates its two malls and still owns several pieces of property from where it derives its rental income.

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- Academic Year 2006 starts on January 1, 2007

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Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236, 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

(PDI - July 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 Aug. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28, 2006)

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
GUAGUA, PAMPANGA

April 28, 2006

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (PELCO II) WITH OFFICE ADDRESS AT SAN ROQUE, GUAGUA, PAMPANGA IS INVITING ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FIVE THOUSAND (5,000 PIECES) PIECES ELECTRONIC METER.

Specification:

Electronic Meter
2 Wire, 10 (60) Ampere
Bottom Type or Socket Type
Note: For Socket type include the meter base

You are therefore invited for the pre-qualification to bid on August 23, 2006 (Wednesday), 10:00 A.M. at PELCO II Board Room, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga wherein there will be an orientation and discussion with regards to the specification of the unit and in preparation for the bidding proper scheduled on August 29, 2006 (Tuesday) at 10:00 A.M.

Please be informed that non-attendance on scheduled pre-qualification to bid is an outright discussion for those bidders who would want to join the bidding proper.

To all interested bidders please prepare the following documents for your accreditation. (For non-accredited supplier only).

1. Company's Profile
2. Latest ITR
3. Mayor's/Business Permit
4. Audited Financial Statement
5. DTI and SEC Registration
6. Accreditation Fee (P1,000.00)
7. Bid Documents Fee to be determined on the Pre-Qualification Day
8. Bid Bond:
   a. Cash/Managers Check - 2.5% of the total bid price
   b. Surety Bond - 10% of the total bid price

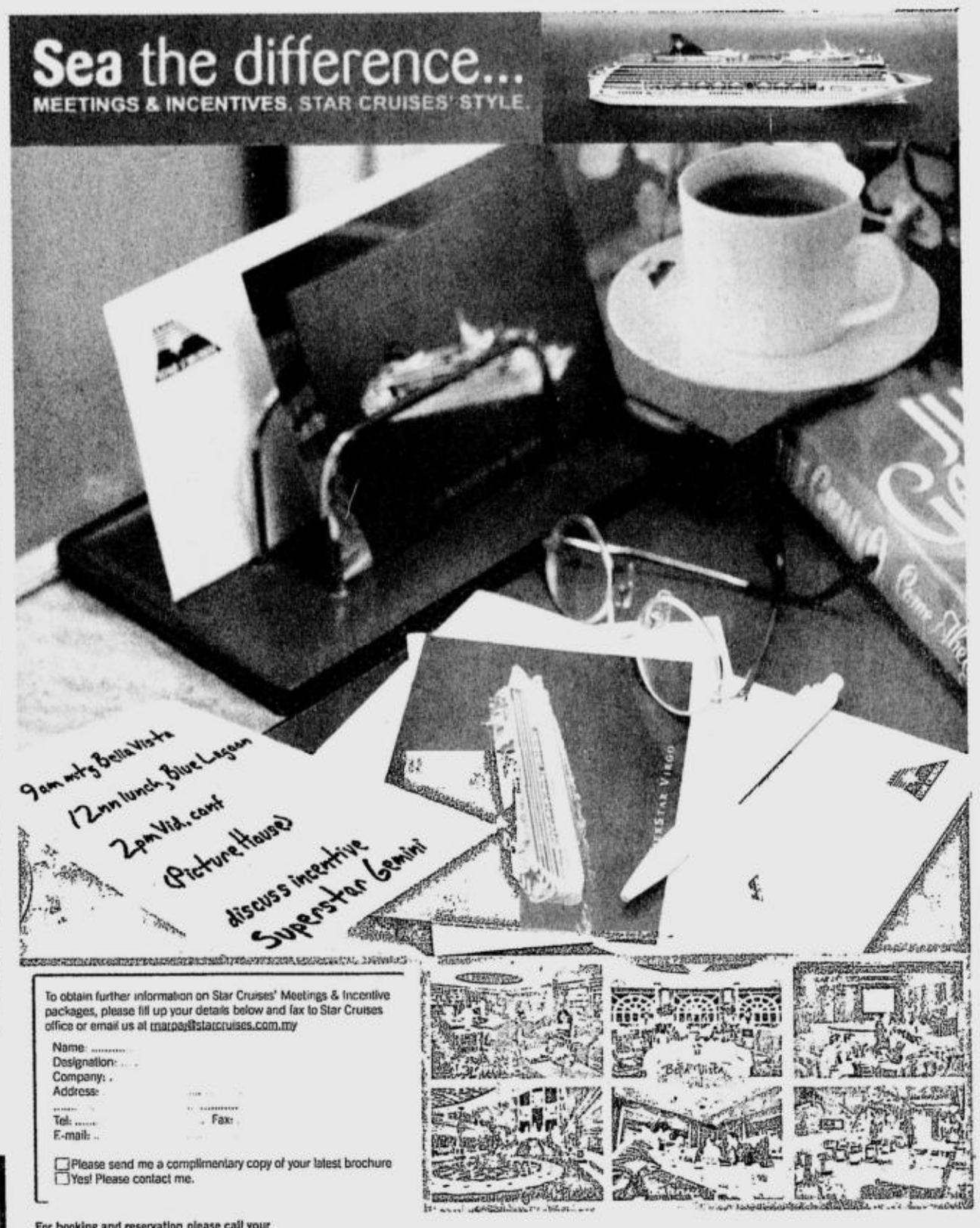
For more information please see/contact Engr. Raul L. Canlas at PELCO II Office or dial number (045) 900-2650.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. RAUL L. CANLAS**
PBAC Chairperson

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **MR. SULPICIO C. LAGARDE JR.**
General Manager

(PDI - August 20 & 21, 2006)



Meralco seeks increase in capital outlay by as much as ₱500M

By Abigail L. Ho

DISTRIBUTION UTILITY MANILA Electric Co. is looking to increase its capital expenditure budget this year by between P250 million and P500 million.

Meralco president and chief operating officer Jesus Francisco said the company would accelerate the payment of some of its debts to commercial banks to allow the capex increase.

"Our capex is capped by creditor constraints. We'll be prepaying in October because we want to loosen the creditor covenants to allow us to increase our capex," he said.

For the past two years, creditor covenants have prevented Meralco from going beyond its annual capex ceiling of P5.75 billion.

This has led to the shelving of key projects to improve the distribution system in its franchise area.

But since Meralco had been prepaying its commercial loans these past quarters, and had even fully paid an $80-million loan from the Asian Development Bank last June, Francisco said it had some leeway to hike its capex.

Should its creditors approve the increase, Meralco could increase its budget by as early as the fourth quarter, according to Meralco chair and chief executive Manuel Lopez.

"We'll see if we can get that by the fourth quarter. If not, I'm sure we can definitely (increase our capex) in 2007," Lopez said.

The additional capex of P250 million to P500 million would come from Meralco's cash flow and would go to shelved projects, Francisco said.

One of these is Meralco's planned Fort Bonifacio substation.

"This year, we may have to look at that project again, considering the development that's taking place in Fort Bonifacio," he said.

Meralco's repayment of its ADB loan and prepayment of its commercial loans not only paved the way for a capex hike but also for fresh loans.

Rafael Andrada, Meralco vice president and treasurer, said discussions with ADB for some new loans were underway.

BOHOL II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(BOHECO II)
Cantagay, Jagna, Bohol

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INVITATION FOR BIDS NO. 2006-04

Licensed suppliers are invited for the bidding of various Electrical Materials, Lineman Tools and Equipment, Kwhr Meters and Transformer Oil thru 5% reinvestment fund and general fund to be used in BOHECO II Coverage area.

Sealed Bid proposals shall be received not later than 2:30 PM on August 31, 2006 at BOHECO I Main Office, Macaas, Tubigon, Bohol.

Interested bidders may obtain information, secure list of bidding documents from BOHECO II Main Office, Cantagay, Jagna, Bohol.

Bid documents may be purchased upon payment of non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).

BOHECO II reserves the right to reject any/all bids with any defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the cooperative.

(Sgd.) **EUGENIO R. TAN SR.**
Resident Manager

(PDI–August 21, 2006)

PDIC tightens rules on banks' deposit-taking operations

New record-keeping standards to take effect on Aug. 30

By Doris C. Dumlao

STATE-OWNED PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INsurance Corp. has tightened its regulations on banks' deposit-taking activities as part of ongoing reforms aimed at strengthening the banking system.

In a press statement on Friday, the PDIC said it recently published a regulatory issuance and operations manual prescribing standards of record keeping of bank deposits for all member-banks. This will take effect on Aug. 30.

The PDIC circular on deposit record keeping implements Sec. 9 of Republic Act 9302, which requires insured banks to keep and maintain true and accurate records or statements of their daily deposit transactions consistent with the standards set by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the PDIC.

Proper record keeping by banks is expected to help the PDIC and the BSP, the regulators of the local banking system, in their monitoring operations.

"This is seen to contribute to banking stability and ultimately, strengthening of the financial system," the PDIC said.

"Orderly record keeping is vital to prompt deposit insurance payout," it said, adding that properly maintained records could expedite settlement of claims.

Once a bank is ordered close by the BSP, PDIC hopes to immediately pay insured deposits. For the past two years, the insurer has maintained a single digit turnaround time. This means the servicing of claims starts within less than 10 days from date of closure.

"However, there are instances when PDIC's efforts are hampered by missing or not well-maintained bank records," it added.

With the new PDIC regulation, banks are required to submit the required operations manual on record keeping of deposits, features of computerized database, schedule of deposit products, and bank certification within thirty days from the date of the circular's effectivity. After which, the schedule of deposit products and the required bank certifications should be submitted every semester—Jan. 31 and July 31 of each year.

PDIC has assumed a tougher role as deposit insurer and liquidator of defunct banks after its charter was amended by the 12th Congress, which raised the maximum deposit insurance to P250,000 from P100,000 and restored its authority to independently examine banks subject to prior approval from the BSP.

The higher maximum deposit insurance coverage factored in inflation and peso depreciation through the years.

But while the Congress raised the deposit insurance coverage ratio, lawmakers did not allow the PDIC to hike the raise the premium col-

PDIC / B6

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SM-Bicutan 8229750; SM Manila 5253218; SM Pampanga (045)8751722; SM Southmall 8069595
Thinking Tools: Davao City (082)2241408; Cebu City (032)2543222
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Eastwood 687554347; Katipunan 4331224; Pag-Asa 9290411; SM City 9267322-23; SM Megamall 6830532-33; Sunvar 8434371-72; West Ave. 3739872-75; Cabanatuan (044)6002000; Market Market 8999999; Parksquare 7527776

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Ortigas feud ...

From page B3

the 20.6 hectares would be valued at P4.1 billion.

Tall tale from Mike cousin

THE CONTROVERSIAL Benito "Bomboy" Araneta has told his equally controversial cousin Mike Arroyo, who apparently believed him, that he had already resigned as chair of the PCGG's "milking cow" (Juan Ponce Enrile's description), the listed Philcomsat Holdings Corp.

Even President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who had intervened to settle the dispute among allies and friends, apparently believed the Araneta claim. Unfortunately, the real story is quite different from what GMA and even her *balae*, Herman Montenegro, had been led to believe.

"At a special meeting of the board of directors held on Feb. 21, 2006, the board deferred action on the offer of Mr. Benito V. Araneta, chair of the board and independent director, to resign from the corporation pending clarification on the reasons for the offer to resign and the determination of the effect of such resignation," Philcomsat Holdings reported to the Philippine Stock Exchange last week.

Not only that, to keep Araneta and his minority board in power, Philcomsat Holdings now even asked the Court of Appeals to issue an injunction to prevent the Securities and Exchange Commission from forcing the listed company to hold a long-delayed stockholders' meeting.

In the meantime, Philcomsat, which had about P1.2 billion in cash when Araneta was first appointed by then President Estrada, admitted that its cash assets had dwindled to only P655 million by end-June.

In the first six months of 2006 alone, the cash assets—despite Philcomsat only having 18 employees—had dropped by another P23.76 million, because of "payment of expenses and advances."

Fortified retirement

NOTWITHSTANDING his retirement, John Gokongwei Jr. attended the JG Summit executive committee meeting on Friday, where the 80-year-old taipan approved, among others, the purchase of a 2,000-square-meter property in The Fort.

According to the grapevine, Gokongwei plans to build his third residential condominium, which overlooks the Manila Golf Club, after selling out the first two similar projects in the area.

Heard through the grapevine

THE COPPER electrical wiring to illuminate the entire Manila Golf Club for nighttime golf was ripped out and carted away Friday night, an obvious inside job. The kilometric wiring and even the scores of lampposts were just recently donated by taipan Lucio Tan.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 18, 2006)

NAME	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.7	9,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32.5	33.5	32.5	33	1,062,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53.5	53.5	53	53.5	1,753,000
China Banking Corp.	700	705	700	700	800
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.39	850,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	83	83	82.5	83	84,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38	38.5	37.5	38	413,000
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	2,300
Phil. Savings Bank	42	42	42	42	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17	17	17	17	2,800
Security Bank Corp.	48.5	48.5	48.5	48.5	133,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	45.5	45	45.5	3,200
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	439,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30	30.5	30	30.5	12,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1625	1625	1625	1625	300
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2030	2000	2030	4,780
Ivantage Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	2,540,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	43	43	43	43	29,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	42.5	42.5	42	42.5	516,100
Manila Electric Co. A	16.25	16.25	16	16.25	97,000
Manila Electric Co. B	25.5	25.5	25	25.5	110,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9	9.2	9	9.2	11,231,000
Petron Corp.	4.15	4.2	4.1	4.2	2,096,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	250,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	29,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	29,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34	34	33.5	34	219,100
Rfm Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.78	0.8	610,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.8	3.75	3.75	2,346,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	64.5	64	64.5	58,600
San Miguel Corp. B	74	74	72.5	73.5	57,600
Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	18.5	17.75	18.25	7,177,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	5,490,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	320,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	449,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.8	4.85	4.8	4.85	466,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.6	3.1	2.6	3.1	20,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	200,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	2,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.55	0.56	0.52	0.54	67,760,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.09	14,800,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	400,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	35,000,000
Ayala Corp.	420	422.5	417.5	420	149,890
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	280,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	4.95	5	80,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.032	0.032	39,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.84	1.84	266,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.27	0.32	0.26	0.32	85,900,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	13,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.94	0.98	0.94	0.97	520,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.1	200,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	9,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	992,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	4.25	4.25	4.2	4.2	310,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.65	2.65	640,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	130,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	5.9	6	5.9	6	651,000
Medco Holdings	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	640,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	120,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.016	0.014	0.014	132,700,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	6,920,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	200,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.155	0.135	0.15	94,660,000
SM Investments Corp.	216	216	212	212	79,990
South China Resources Inc	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	100,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.14	0.145	0.135	0.135	16,290,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	2,100,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13	13.25	13	13	5,980,500
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	60,000
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	6,234,000
Cityland Development Corp	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	26,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.33	0.38	0.33	0.37	10,400,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.18	2.26	2.18	2.24	622,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
Eib Realty Developers Inc	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	30,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	2,840,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.05	0.055	0.049	0.0525	36,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.42	1.38	1.42	3,511,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.135	0.145	0.13	0.145	9,620,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.145	0.15	0.135	0.15	1,390,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.48	2.48	2.4	2.4	150,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	23,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	170,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.64	21,254,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	1,590,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	11.75	12	11.75	12	812,700
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	1,100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.74	1,130,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8	7.8	7.8	3,453,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	80,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	1,000,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	17	17	17	17	4,500
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.1	239,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.3	1.32	1.28	1.3	4,219,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1020	1020	1015	1020	59,210
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.75	3.8	3.7	3.75	2,959,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1965	1985	1945	1980	74,350
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	13,090,000
Imperial Res.	0.023	0.023	0.019	0.019	257,600,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.0575	0.0525	0.0575	19,700,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	12,500,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	210,000
Philweb Corp.	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.03	143,800,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	111,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.75	15	14.75	14.75	317,700
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	90,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	1,652,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.52	1.56	1.5	1.54	4,224,000
Philippine Racing Club	3	3	3	3	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	230,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	9,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.08	2.22	2.08	2.22	756,000
Paxys Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.5	2,533,900
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.85	1,925,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	4.85	4.95	4.75	4.95	585,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	152,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.7	8.2	7.6	8.1	2,348,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.92	2	1.92	2	205,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	9,480,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	1,590,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.021	376,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	157,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	94,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.2	4.2	4.05	4.1	3,834,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.25	4.25	4.15	4.2	2,036,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	25.5	26	15,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.58	630,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	510,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	160,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	541,100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	139,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	465,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	326,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	12.75	13.25	12.75	13	216,700
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	104	104	104	104	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	180,000

CURRENCIES

August 20, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.779484	1.000000	51.1330
Japan	Yen	0.006720	0.008621	0.4408
United Kingdom	Pound	1.469249	1.884900	96.3806
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100250	0.128611	6.5763
Switzerland	Franc	0.632133	0.810964	41.4670
Canada	Dollar	0.694541	0.891027	45.5609
Singapore	Dollar	0.495319	0.635445	32.4922
Australia	Dollar	0.594753	0.763009	39.0149
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.067707	2.652661	135.6385
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.207851	0.266652	13.6347
Brunei	Dollar	0.493751	0.633433	32.3893
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020715	0.026575	1.3589
UAE	Dirham	0.212232	0.272272	13.9221
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.282900	65.5985
Argentina	Peso	0.253697	0.325468	16.6422
Brazil	Real	0.365955	0.469484	24.0061
Denmark	Kroner	0.134045	0.171966	8.7931
India	Rupee	0.016813	0.021570	1.1029
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212394	0.272480	13.9327
Mexico	New Peso	0.072282	0.092730	4.7416
New Zealand	Dollar	0.500439	0.642013	32.8281
Norway	Kroner	0.123826	0.158856	8.1228
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012919	0.016574	0.8475
South Africa	Rand	0.115104	0.147667	7.5507
Korea	Won	0.000811	0.001041	0.0532
Sweden	Kroner	0.109004	0.139841	7.1505
Syria	Pound	0.015016	0.019264	0.9850
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023900	0.030661	1.5678
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000363	0.000466	0.0238

Asian Terminals posts 38% jump in 6-month profit

By Riza T. Olchondra

ASIAN TERMINALS INC. SAW ITS CONSOLIdated first-half net income increase by 38 percent or P103 million year-on-year to P374.4 million from P271.3 million in 2005. The port operator attributed this to the combined effects of higher revenues from inventory build-up and the continuing cost-reduction initiatives.

ATI said in a statement that revenues from ports operations increased by 8.8 percent mainly due to higher contributions from South Harbor container operations, which rose 15.6 percent following the growth in volumes, favorable container mix, enhancement in ancillary services and increase in tariff rates.

Consolidated revenues were up by 6.2 percent to P2.07 billion for the first half of 2006 from P1.95 billion a year ago.

At the same time, consolidated operating expenses decreased by 1.3 percent to P1.32 billion from P1.34 billion in the same period in 2005.

Consolidated general transport expenses declined by 49.8 percent to P18.7 million from P37.3 million and other expenses went down by 12.7 percent to P267.8 million from P306.9 million primarily due to lower brokerage, arrastre, wharfage, handling and storage costs.

ATI cut back on its non-ports business, which resulted in lower non-ports revenues by 5.4 percent. However, this resulted in lower operating expenses. ATI also saw its consolidated insurance decline by 14.3 percent from P49.5 million to P42.4 million as a result of lower premiums and appreciation of the peso.

Meantime, the company said in the statement that it had no plans for additional capital infusion at the moment. It noted that net cash provided by operating activities increased by 142.4 percent to P594.7 million in the first six months from P245.3 million last year mainly due to higher operating income.

Slow . . .

From page B1

oil to $70 a barrel was offset by lower weekly jobless claims data in the US, resulting in investor tentativeness to enter the market aggressively," AB Capital Securities said.

It also noted that while tons of financial statements beat the Aug. 15 deadline for reportorial requirements, Megaworld Corp.'s performance seized investor interest on better-than-expected results.

"While the issue managed to gain 11 percent this week, interest is just beginning as the issue remains 17 percent below its consensus target price of P2 a share," AB Capital Securities said.

Megaworld's earnings in the first semester was up 58 percent to P864 million, already more than half of the P1.6 billion in earnings analysts expect the company to make this year.

Consolidated revenues (consisting of real estate sales, rental income, hotel income, interest income) grew 22 percent to P3.3 billion.

Among blue chips which released their second quarter results were SM Investments Corp., which reported an 85-percent growth in net income for the first six months of 2006 to P5.1 billion; First Generation Corp., which saw profit decline to $41 million (P2.1 billion) from $44 million a year ago; Jollibee Foods Corp., whose net income rose 10 percent to P602 million from P547 million, and ABS-CBN, which reported second-quarter earnings of P394 million against P344 a year before. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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Measures readied to encourage new investments in cement making

Users insist claims of overcapacity not true given the rising prices

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INVESTMENT PROMOTION OFFICIALS are studying measures that would encourage new entrants in the local cement industry, including fully foreign-owned projects, according to a source familiar with the matter.

The source said clinker-based manufacturing of cement could again be included in the list of priority investments that could be granted fiscal and nonfiscal incentives, including duty-free importation of capital equipment.

However, income tax holidays would be limited to four years or the level accorded to nonpioneer projects, as opposed to pioneering ventures that could avail themselves of up to six years of tax holidays.

To qualify for incentives, firms with existing cement making facilities should have a minimum production capacity of a million metric tons a year, 85 percent of which should be in use.

As for foreign-owned projects, they have to be export oriented and must involve a new product, process or technology.

A foreign-owned project would qualify for nonpioneer perks, including a four-year income tax holiday.

Earlier, the Cement Manufacturers Association of the Philippines said granting new cement projects investment incentives was uncalled for considering that existing factories were experiencing very low capacity utilization at only about 56.4 percent of total installed capacity.

Cemap data showed that in 2005, members' factories produced only 11.58 million metric tons while total capacity was placed at 18.48 MMT. Local demand for cement, based on the data, had been at around 11 MMT yearly in the past 10 years.

The group said cement output reached a high of 14.89 MMT in 1997 and dipped to the decade's lowest in 2005.

Cement demand for 2005 punctuated with a 6-percent decline a three-year downtrend that started from a volume of 12.73 MMT in 2002, according to Cemap.

Cement buyers, including members of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations, blasted Cemap for manipulating the excess capacity issue.

Creba had said pronouncements about high levels of excess capacity were not reflected in the prices of cement, which had been increasing steadily.

Creba had urged the government to push through with plans to encourage new players with investment incentives.

Last week, Cemap had called for the adoption of further protection for the cement industry by including it in the list of sensitive sector that would be spared from reduction of import barriers under the World Trade Organization.

FRENCH ENVOY'S VISIT
Tourism Secretary Joseph H. Durano hands over a token to French Ambassador to the Philippines Gerald Chesnel during his visit to the Department of Tourism office. They discussed tourism trends and possible activities to enhance travel and tourism between the two nations, as well as to promote French investments in the country.

Higher rates seen to jack up Transco '06 profit to ₱18B

By Abigail L. Ho

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORP. (TRANSCO) expects its net income to rise to between P17 billion and P18 billion this year from last year's P16.2 billion.

Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz said the projected increase in profit would be brought about by the state firm's new rates as approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission.

The ERC last April approved Transco's interim maximum allowable revenue for the year, resulting in an increase in the rates charged by the state firm.

By next year, he said profit growth would be flat, but would again spike by 2008.

"We're expecting a surge in 2008. Net income may even reach P20 billion because a lot of our projects are due for completion that year or in 2007," he explained.

Among the projects that are targeted for completion in the next two years are the Cebu-Negros and Negros-Panay interconnection projects and the Wright-Calbayog transmission project.

The P3.3-billion Cebu-Negros project involves the installation of a 109-kilometer, 138-kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line and a 17.8-km sub-sea cable connecting Transco's Santander substation in Cebu and the Amlan substation in Negros Oriental.

The Negros-Panay project is expected to double the transfer capacity of the company's existing 18.8-km sub-sea cable from 100 megawatts (MW) to 200 MW.

The Wright-Calbayog project, a component of Transco's Visayas Transmission Augmentation project (Vista), will extend the 138-kV backbone system of Samar Island from Wright to Calbayog City.

It will involve the expansion of the existing Wright substation, the construction of a new 50-megavolt-ampere substation in Calbayog and the establishment of 65 kilometers of steel tower-supported transmission lines connecting the two substations.

The completion and commissioning of these projects in the next two years would allow Transco to service more customers, which will result in increases in revenues and bottom line, he said.

Transco registered a 7-percent increase in net income to P9.13 billion in the first half, from about P8.53 billion in the same period last year.

Its net utility revenue likewise rose 6 percent to P13.09 billion in the first semester as compared to year-ago figures.

Poro seaport income doubled

PORO POINT INDUSTRIAL CORP. (PPIC), THE private operator of the Poro Point seaport in San Fernando, La Union, yesterday said it had nearly doubled the seaport's yearly income since it took over its operations in 2000.

In a statement, PPIC legal counsel cited Poro Point Management Corp. records that showed that the seaport was posting an average of only P29.8 million in net profit per year or a total of P81.7 million for three years before it was taken over by a private operator.

Dulay said PPIC had almost doubled that to P50 million per year.

He added that the Bases Conversion Development Authority had earned from PPIC operations about P300 million in the past six years.

The PPIC manages the seaport and bulk terminal on the basis of a 1999 contract with the government.

Kia upbeat on RP auto market

KIA MOTORS CORP., ONE OF THE world's fastest growing auto makers, is bullish about its prospects in the Philippines and international markets.

The company has 12 manufacturing and assembly operations in seven countries, producing over 1.1 vehicles a year which are sold in 160 countries.

Columbian Autocar Corp., Kia Motors' manufacturer and distributor in the Philippines, said the introduction of new models, financing promotions and other marketing activities were seen to expand and strengthen its market share here.

Columbian Autocar recently introduced four new models—Kia Picanto, Rio, K2700 and 2007 Sorento—at its Quezon Avenue showroom.

The company believes that its aggressive marketing campaigns would enable Kia to sustain the sales growth posted particularly by Sorento and Picanto.

This is despite gloomy projections based on a slight 1.3-percent decline in automotive industry sales from January to July.

"We have been posting a healthy performance in recent months with Sorento and Picanto leading the pack. We expect strong results in the second semester with the introduction of the 2007 Sorento," said Felix Mabilog, president of Columbian Autocar Corp.

Kia Motors has been registering double-digit growth rates in recent years, with Europe and North America accounting for the larger gains.

Industry data also showed that year-to-date passenger car sales increase whenever new models are introduced.

SM opens 26th mall in Pasig

SM PRIME HOLDINGS INC. OPENED IN Pasig its 26th mall last Saturday.

SM Supercenter Pasig has as its main anchor the SM Hypermarket, which offers a balanced mix of food and nonfood items. It occupies 10,429 square meters (sq.m.) of the new mall's 14,706-sq.m. total leasable area. The gross floor area is 29,017 sq.m., including a basement parking of 10,222 sq.m.

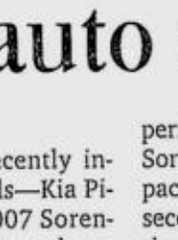
SM Prime president Mr. Hans Sy said, "A supercenter is a new format that we will be rolling out at a faster rate in smaller municipalities and provinces. This is our way of introducing organized retail services into these areas with the objective of generating not just new markets for SM Prime, but also increased economic activity in these areas with the provision of more jobs and trading activities."

SM Supercenter Pasig will also house a food court and various shops, including Ace Hardware, Watson's, Country Waffles, Breadtalk and Taste Asia, where shoppers can experience *dampa*-style dining.

Earlier this year, SMPH launched SM City Sta. Rosa, SM City Clark and SM Mall of Asia. SMPH is also scheduled to open SM City Lipa on Sept. 22, 2006.

Sona: Creating jobs

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES
Honesto C. General



BENJAMIN DIOKNO, RECOGNIZED AS one of the most outstanding economists in the country, on a TV talk show recently, was asked to react to the State of the Nation Address. He said that, instead of embarking on the grandiose public works projects outlined by the President in order to create jobs, the government should encourage the setting up of labor-intensive industries.

I found Diokno's suggestion quite strange. This bias in favor of labor-intensive industries in order to create jobs was first thought of when I was in mechanical engineering school 55 long years ago. Devastated by World War II and a harsh enemy occupation, the country was bankrupt. I guess there was nothing else government leaders could do about the huge unemployment problem then.

My first job after college was fire insurance inspector for the FGU Insurance Group. I appraised such labor-intensive enterprises as cigar-rolling factories, embroidery and garment firms.

It seems to me that, after a generation, what Diokno suggests is a throwback to our past. We are no longer a war-devastated country. Today, the catchword is productivity.

Take the insurance business. Because of intense competition (insurance is the most competitive business ever invented by man), insurance offices today are designed to get more and more out of their employees for every square foot of office space. Insurance policies are cranked out at a dizzying pace with fewer personnel.

To attain more efficiency (and employ less personnel), mergers, especially among large international insurance firms, are quite common.

In my small insurance brokerage office, I could offer more employment by going back to manual typewriters and hand-cranked calculators. Instead, just like any insurance brokerage in town, my office is equipped with personal computers, a fax machine, the latest copier, and Internet connectivity.

I admit, I am employing a smaller staff, but the people who service us have increased. There are the suppliers, salesmen and technicians. The other day, my computerized invoicing system bogged down. After an emergency call to my supplier, a young lady technician (she said she had no plans of going to the Middle East) came over and fixed the problem.

Modernization or information technology does not lead to fewer jobs on the whole, as peripheral jobs open up.

By all means, let us continue to have labor-intensive garment factories and embroidery firms. Maybe our workers there will be persuaded to stay out of South Lebanon. But government policy need not be biased in their favor.

Let us keep our feet firmly on the ground with our eyes fixed on the future.

At last, a TV talk show on elderlies

With all kinds of talk shows on TV and radio, it is incredible that not one is on the elderly person. The idea and marketing people in the media have completely ignored a vital sector of Philippine society. Yet, the elderlies, or the senior citizens, 60 years of age and above, account for about 15 percent of the population. That makes about 12 million.

Now, at last, there is a tele-magazine show—The Young Once—dedicated to all senior citizens of the country. Hosted by Parañaque Congressman Eduardo Zialcita and Marione Chua, the show is on NBN Channel 4 every Sunday, starting yesterday, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

The show features the outstanding achievements and contributions of senior citizens in all sectors of society. A segment is dedicated to inform the public of the rights, privileges and benefits of senior citizens with respect to the implementation of Expanded Senior Act (RA9257).

If you are an elderly, watch the show every Sunday from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Then, take your siesta afterwards.

PDIC . . .

From page B4

lected from banks, which was pegged at 20 basis points of 1 percent of deposits.

PDIC was created through Republic Act No. 3591 in 1963 with the primary mandate of insuring deposits in Philippine banks. Its creation was precipitated by the closure of a number of banks in the early 1960s, which prompted the then Central Bank of the Philippines (CBP), the forerunner of the BSP, to push for a legislation patterned after the US Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

Over the years, PDIC endured waves of bank failures, especially during the early 1980s when the country experienced severe economic and political turmoil.

USAid commits $70-M grant for Mindanao

By Michelle V. Remo

THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR International Development (USAid) has committed to extend $70 million (around P3.57 billion) in grant to the Philippines this year.

About $41 million, or 59 percent of the total grant, will be earmarked for economic development projects in Mindanao.

"(The USAid) remains convinced that a lasting peace in Mindanao, which the government and the MILF are now moving toward, is absolutely a key for stability and growth in the entire country," Jon Lindborg, USAid mission director, said in a statement,

The amount allocated for Mindanao will include $12 million for enhancing the quality of public education in the South; $11 million for the implementation of projects related to livelihood, infrastructure and governance of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM); $10 million for family planning and health; $6 million for environmental governance and development of renewable energy, and $3 million for the enhancement of local governance, especially in conflict-torn areas.

The remaining $29 million will be used for developmental projects in provinces outside Mindanao. These projects will, likewise, center on education, health, environment and governance.

In the statement, the USAid said it had been giving grants to Mindanao since the early 1990s. The US-government's donor agency had extended a total of $220 million between 2001 and 2005 in grants for developmental projects in Mindanao.

The grants provided by the USAid are anchored on seven major objectives: Reintegration of former Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) combatants into the economy; improving the business climate; supporting stronger local governments; improving health and family planning services; protecting natural resources; electrification of remote communities through renewable energy; and increased access to quality education and livelihood skills in selected areas most affected by poverty and conflict.

The National Economic and Development Authority, which discussed with the USAid the projects to be financed by the grant, said the foreign donor's assistance to Mindanao were contributory to several results of developmental efforts.

Under the USAid grant, 28,000 former MNLF combatants have been reintegrated into the economy. The grant also funded the building of more than 558 small- and 20 large-scale infrastructure projects in conflict-ridden areas, benefiting about 2 million people.

Also, 216 local governments have benefited from the USAid grants in terms of enhancing their health services. The USAid grant is also financing a program that provides solar-powered renewable systems in remote areas, which already benefited 6,500 households in 227 communities.

The USAid assistance accounted for about 55 percent of the $127.07 million in total US government's assistance to the Philippines this year.

The US government's Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC) has earlier committed to provide $20.68-million grant to the Philippines for the development of the anticorruption and tax evasion programs of the Department of Finance, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and the Bureau of Customs.

US-Asean set to sign pact to boost investments

Trade plan scaled down because of Burma, officials say

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—THE United States will sign a pact with Southeast Asia this week to boost trade and investment, but the plan has been scaled down because of Burma (Myanmar), whose poor human rights record has hindered trade relations, officials said Saturday.

The pact, to be signed by US Trade Representative Susan Schwab and trade ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at a meeting in Malaysia, will be called a trade and investment facilitation arrangement, which is less formal than an agreement, Asean Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong said.

Ong, however, downplayed the significance of the wording, saying it was a "flexible arrangement" to overcome potential US congressional opposition. Washington, which imposes sanctions on Myanmar, does not require congressional approval for an informal arrangement.

US officials proposed the arrangement last month as a way to enable all 10 Asean members, including Myanmar, to come on board and pave the way for deeper US business dealings with the region, Ong told The Associated Press.

"Many people in Washington want to jam US ties with Asean because of Myanmar," Ong said. "It's basically a tactical move to expedite the process. We don't need to quibble too much about these words."

"As far as Asean is concerned, this is to our advantage," he added. "The loaf may not be as big as we wanted but it's still a loaf of bread."

"Whether it is an arrangement or agreement, (it) is a good step forward" to an eventual free trade agreement, which is still far away, Ong added.

Myanmar, which joined Asean in 1997, has become a source of embarrassment to the bloc due to its failure to fulfill promises to restore democracy and free opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners.

US officials holding preparatory meetings in Malaysia declined to comment.

"What you call it doesn't matter. They have problems with Myanmar. Having an arrangement gets over that political sensitivity," Malaysian Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz said late Friday.

The US, Asean's No.1 trading partner, has previously signed TIFA pacts with Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines, as well as a free trade agreement with Singapore.

Officials say growing momentum for economic integration in East Asia involving China has forced the US to consider stronger ties with Asean, which is spearheading the process. Washington recently said it will appoint an ambassador for Asean affairs.

"It is a benevolent defense of US strategic presence in Asean, which is potentially beneficial for us," said Philippines senior official Ramon Vicente Kabigting.

He said the TIFA would bring in new US funds for capacity building projects and spur investor confidence.

However, Ong noted Washington isn't likely to ease pressure on Asean, which has a policy of not interfering in other members' domestic affairs, to take tougher action to push Myanmar's military junta toward political reforms.

"Myanmar is still a big issue to America and its Congress ... it doesn't mean we are going to be easier off. Now they can put this (TIFA) in front of us and ask us to do more," he said. *AP*

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil prices up on Iran

LONDON—CRUDE PRICES rose on Friday, despite ducking under $70 in New York, as traders switched their focus to the nuclear energy crisis in Iran.

Last Friday, New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in September, fell to $69.60 a barrel in pit trading — marking the lowest level since June 21.

The contract later stood at $70.35, marking an increase of 29 cents from Thursday's close.

Prices fell beneath $70 in a "continued reaction to the signs of an economic slowdown in the United States", said Societe Generale analyst Deborah White.

However, crude futures remained supported on Friday by the Iranian nuclear energy crisis.

Iran, the world's fourth biggest crude oil producer, has until August 31 to halt its uranium enrichment programme or face the threat of UN sanctions. *AFP*

China raises interest rates

BEIJING—China raised interest rates on Friday for the second time in four months in the latest effort to tame a boom in credit and investment that the central bank said posed pressing problems for the economy.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) said it had ordered an increase of 0.27 percentage point in commercial banks' benchmark one-year deposit and lending rates. The deposit rate is now 2.52 percent and the lending rate stands at 6.12 percent.

The PBOC raised lending rates by the same margin on April 27 but kept deposit rates unchanged.

"The national economy has maintained rapid growth so far this year, and the overall situation is sound, but the problems of over-rapid investment growth and credit expansion and an excessively large trade surplus are pressing," the central bank said on its Web site (www.pbc.gov.cn). *Reuters*

Wal-Mart profit falls

NEW YORK—Retail behemoth Wal-Mart Stores Inc. revealed last week its first earnings drop in a decade owing to its withdrawal from Germany and sluggish US sales at a time of sky-high fuel prices.

The US-based chain said its second-quarter net profit slumped 26 percent to $2.08 billion , after it booked a charge of $863 million for the sale of its German stores to Metro AG.

But at 72 cents a share, Wal-Mart's earnings with the special charge stripped out were in line with Wall Street forecasts for the three months to July 31.

Its revenues rose 11.3 percent from the same quarter of 2005 to $84.52 billion. That was below the consensus forecast tallied by First Call of $86.24 billion. *AFP*

Microsoft in buyback mode

NEW YORK—Software giant Microsoft said Friday it was boosting its huge share buyback program by a hefty $16.2 billion.

Other US companies are also moving to repurchase their stock, signaling they see limited investment opportunities in the US economy which has shown signs of slowing in recent months.

Microsoft said it expects to acquire 155 million shares at $24.75 dollars a share for a total $3.8 billion following a tender which expired late Thursday as part of its ramped-up buyback program.

The Washington-state based software-maker said it was now seeking to repurchase additional shares totaling $36.2 billion in a program stretching forward to June 30, 2011. *AFP*

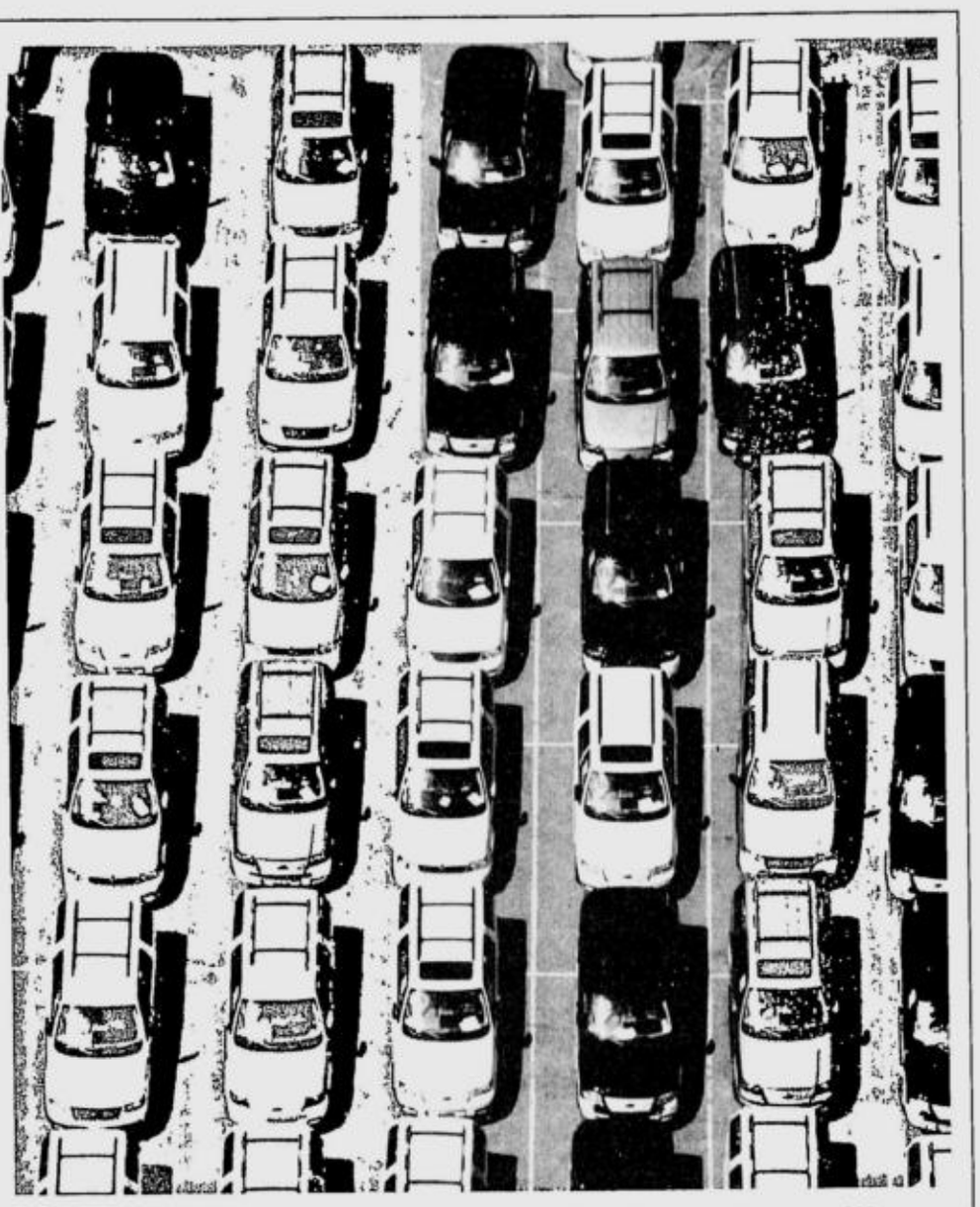
Boeing names China head

NEW YORK—Boeing Co. on Friday moved to beef up its presence in the fast-growing Chinese market by naming a company veteran to a new position heading its commercial aircraft operations in the country.

A key battleground in its competition with European rival Airbus, China is expected to order 2,600 aircraft over the next 20 years, valued at more than $200 billion, according to Boeing forecasts.

The Chicago-based company said John Bruns would start immediately in the new position of vice president—China operations for Boeing's commercial airplanes unit.

Bruns, a 20-year Boeing veteran, will be the company's most senior commercial airplane executive in China, responsible for overseeing strategy and business development. *Reuters*



STRUGGLING auto giant Ford Motor Co. said it would slash its fourth-quarter US vehicle production by 21 percent or 168,000 units as it vies to find dramatic cost savings. Ford said the move to cut output across its production lines would see a 9-percent reduction of its full-year 2006 output compared with 2005. AFP

Ford puts brakes on production

NEW YORK—STRUGGLING AUTO GIANT Ford Motor Co. said Friday it was slashing its US vehicle production as it battles to recapture customers who are deserting its gas-guzzling SUVs in favor of Japanese models.

Ford said it would cut its fourth-quarter US output by 21 percent or 168,000 units as it seeks big cost savings, in a move that would reduce its full-year 2006 production by nine percent compared with a year ago.

"We know this decision will have a dramatic impact on our employees, as well as our suppliers," company chief executive Bill Ford said in a statement.

"This is, however, the right call for our customers, our dealers and our long-term future," he said.

The Ford chief told employees in a message that details of additional "actions" will be announced in September.

Ford made the announcement two weeks after revising its loss for the second quarter ended June to $254 million, more than double its initial estimate. It blamed soaring pension costs for its heavily unionized workforce.

Its share price slumped 33 cents, or 4.04 percent, to $7.84 in late morning trading.

The company is in the midst of an aggressive recovery program which foresees up to 30,000 job cuts and the closure of 14 facilities.

Ford said its output cuts were due in part to an expected drop in demand for fuel-hungry light trucks and sport utility vehicles (SUVs).

Demand for Ford's trucks and SUVs dropped a staggering 43.8 percent to 151,944 units in July compared with the same month a year ago.

Some analysts, however, said more changes will likely be required if Ford wants to regain its tread.

"Ford's announcement isn't too surprising. It's going to take dramatic changes on a number of fronts for Ford to get back on track," said Terrence Guay, a professor at Penn State University's business school.

Ford has been caught in a bind between rocketing fuel costs and the savvy marketing of more fuel-efficient and hybrid vehicles by its Asian rivals.

Last month, Toyota accelerated past Ford for the first time as the Japanese giant became the second most popular automaker in the US market, behind General Motors.

Analysts at JP Morgan said that "we believe the earnings recovery at Ford will be more of a 2008/2009 story than 2007." Ford also plans to reduce its third-quarter production by 20,000 units. It had previously said it aimed to produce 670,000 vehicles in the third quarter.

Ford expects the cutbacks to "sharply reduce" the supply of several models while also reducing the pressure on dealers carrying large car and truck inventories.

The production cuts will result in downtime at several assembly plants including the Michigan truck plant at Wayne, which builds the giant Ford Expedition and luxury Lincoln Navigator SUVs. *AFP*

Asian stock markets set to take a breather

HONG KONG—HAVING CHALKED up solid gains in the last few sessions, Asian stock markets look set to take a breather this week as investors wait for fresh clues to the health of the US housing market and consumer spending.

US shoppers are a major consumer of Asian goods and any disappointment on data such as existing and new home sales and durable goods could reignite worries about slower US growth and offset euphoria that US interest rates are near a peak.

Tame US producer and consumer prices in the past week have raised expectations that the Federal Reserve will not need to lift interest rates to fight inflation at next month's meeting, helping send Asian stocks to near-three-month highs.

"The question now is not whether the (US) housing sector is in decline, but whether it will be a hard or soft landing," said Sydney-based Craig James, chief equities economist at CommSec.

Investors in Australia and Hong Kong face another busy week of corporate earnings with major firms such as mining giant BHP Billiton and conglomerate Hutchison Whampoa Ltd. due to report

In Japan, lower oil prices and optimism about Japan's economic recovery are expected to help support the market, but the upside may be limited," said Yumi Nishimura, manager, investment advisory section, at Daiwa Securities SMBC Co. Ltd.

In Korea, shares are expected to continue rebounding as the prospect of an end to US rate increases and falling oil prices help lift exporters and prompt a return of foreign investors to emerging markets following strong selling in recent months.

In Hong Kong, results from the twin flagship firms of tycoon Li Ka-shing, Cheung Kong Holdings Ltd. and Hutchison Whampoa Ltd., are key to the market's near-term outlook.

Southeast Asia markets may trade in a narrow range this week as lower oil prices and steady US interest rates provide shares with some upside, but concerns of a slowing US economy could limit gains.

Slower growth in the United States—Asia's largest export market—will drive export prices lower and hit corporate earnings in Asia, analysts said. *Reuters*

Dell Q2 revenues up in Japan, China, India

TOKYO/HONG KONG—DELL Inc., the world's top PC maker, racked up solid quarterly revenue growth in Asia and Chairman Michael Dell reaffirmed on Friday that a US regulatory probe into its books would not affect its bottom line.

The company said on Thursday that the US Securities and Exchange Commission was conducting an informal inquiry into how the PC giant, now grappling with stiff competition from Hewlett Packard Co., books revenue and other matters.

Dell, in Hong Kong as part of an Asian business tour, reiterated that he expected no "material impact" from a recall of 4.1 million notebook computer batteries supplied by Sony Corp.—the biggest electronics recall in US history.

The US firm would keep buying Sony's batteries, he said, reassuring a Japanese electronics giant now trying to revamp its electronics business and fend off rivals Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. and Sharp Corp.

"Based on everything we have known, we don't expect there will be any material difference in our financials" from the SEC investigation, the 41-year-old Dell told reporters in the city.

"We have worked extensively with Sony to make sure they have made the right changes in the process," he added. "Based on improvements they have made and measures they have taken, they will continue to be one of the battery suppliers."

Dell is having a turbulent week: apart from battling a potential public-relations nightmare after the Sony recall, the departure of top executives in China and the SEC investigation, it also posted on Thursday a fiscal second-quarter profit plunge of 51 percent after cutting prices to gain market share.

The company's revenue grew just 2 percent in Japan, a key market. But sales jumped 31 percent in China and 63 percent in India.

Dell's chairman declined to provide any outlook for the current quarter.

"I think we (Dell as a whole) got a little too aggressive in pricing strategy. But in Asia we did see good elasticity," Dell's regional head Steve Felice told reporters in a conference call. "In Asia, we saw very solid profitability."

Asia, which accounts for 14 percent of Dell's revenue, has been a bright spot for the company.

"We will continue to provide competitive pricing," Felice said when asked if Dell would lower prices in Asia still further for market share. *Reuters*

All eyes on US housing data, Federal Reserve's Bernanke

LONDON—RECENT WEAK US inflation data has turned investors' focus toward US housing numbers this week and how these will fit with the Federal Reserve's decision to pause rate hikes, expecting growth to moderate.

Federal Reserve chief Ben Bernanke will also grab market attention when he speaks at a symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, as investors seek insight into the US central bank's vision on inflation.

"The question really is how does their (Fed) view fit against how the market is interpreting things," said Charles Dieble, interest rate strategist at Nomura International.

In Europe, sentiment data dominates with Germany's ZEW economic sentiment index on Tuesday and the Ifo business survey on Thursday, while in Japan, inflation data will feature.

US existing home sales figures on Wednesday and new home sales on Thursday are seen as tests of the Federal Reserve's assertion that growth is slowing.

A run of weak inflation numbers last week, including producer and consumer price data, heightened expectations that the Fed would continue holding rates at 5.25 percent after pausing its two-year credit tightening campaign this month.

Existing home sales are expected to have fallen slightly in July from 6.62 million in June, while new home sales were also seen a touch weaker than June's 1.131 million.

"There's a lot of focus on the housing market as the implications for the economy are quite widespread—it feeds through to a slow down in residential investment, it has some impact on employment and consumption," said Sarah Hewin, senior economist at American Express Bank.

"Having said that, we're not expecting a crash in housing, just a move to a slower pace," she added.

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta President Jack Guynn speaks on Tuesday about "Transitions in the US Economy and Financial System," while Chicago President Michael Moskow speaks before the 2006 Economic Vision luncheon.

"The Fed has already declared that they expect a slowdown of US growth, but we hope Fed governors Guynn and Moskow may elaborate on housing," economists at Sarasin said in a research report.

Other US data due this week include durable goods on Thursday.

The euro zone's biggest economy has consumer and business sentiment data this week, with analysts looking to see if a peak has been reached yet.

The ZEW institute publishes its indicator of economic sentiment for August on Tuesday, with the median forecast in a Reuters poll predicting it will come in at 12.0 from 15.1 in July, while the current conditions index was seen at 26.5, up from 23.3 previously.

Germany's Ifo business sentiment index is expected to show current conditions at 108.0 in August from 108.6 in July, while expectations are seen at 101.6 from 102.6 previously.

"Ifo is still at very high levels and the GDP data we had earlier this week, to a certain extent, vindicate those extremely strong business confidence numbers that we saw in Germany in Q2," Hewin said.

The data were not expected to blow the European Central Bank off course in its campaign to raise interest rates further this year from the current 3 percent.

Japanese consumer price index data for July late on Thursday is seen up 0.5 percent on the year, compared with an annual rise of 0.6 percent previously. *Reuters*

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CALOOCAN CITY

LOT 1 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 335 sqm.
Floor Area 331 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 17, No 68 cor Ninang Lydia St., BF Homes Ph 2,
Minimum Bid Price 1,450,000

LOT 2 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 407.5 sqm.
Floor Area 1,950.8 sqm.
221 P Sevilla St., Calaanan,
Minimum Bid Price 12,000,000

LOT 3 - LOT W/ WHSE
Lot Area 1,732 sqm.
Floor Area 1,617.62 sqm.
Lot 3602, No 110 Gregoria de Jesus & Tirad Pass Sts
Minimum Bid Price 12,000,000

CAVITE

LOT 4 - LOT W/ WHSE
Lot Area 1,300 sqm.
Floor Area 532 sqm.
Tirona Hiway, Brgy Habay, Bacoor
Minimum Bid Price 4,800,000

LAGUNA

LOT 5 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,840 sqm.
L8 B7 Unnamed Road, The Manila Southwoods Ecocentrum Business Park, Biñan
Minimum Bid Price 9,000,000

LAS PIÑAS CITY

LOT 6 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 794 sqm.
Lot 2 & 3, No 105 Angela Ave Talon-4
Minimum Bid Price 2,600,000

LOT 7 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Floor Area 270 sqm.
L31 B1 Cypress Rd Pilar Vill., Ph. II
Minimum Bid Price 2,000,000

MAKATI CITY

LOT 8 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 582 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 27 No 1171 Antonio S Amaiz Ave. (Pasong Tamo)
Minimum Bid Price 20,000,000

LOT 9 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 344 sqm.
Floor Area 1,769.06 sqm.
4700 Goldfinch Mansion South Superhighway cor. Cuangco St., Brgy. Pio Del Pilar
Minimum Bid Price 40,000,000

LOT 10 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 210 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 1 J P Rizal & P Gomez Sts.
Minimum Bid Price 8,000,000

MANILA

LOT 11 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,556.18 sqm.
Floor Area 2,530 sqm.
No. 1060 Josefa Llanes Escoda cor. Gen. Luna Sts., Paco
Minimum Bid Price 35,000,000

MARIKINA CITY

LOT 12 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Floor Area 346.61 sqm.
L12 B6 # 15 Dwina Graoa St., St. Mary Subd. Parang
Minimum Bid Price 2,200,000

MUNTINLUPA CITY

LOT 13

LOT 14 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 471 sqm.
Floor Area 244 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 9 #915 Acacia St., Doña Rosario Heights Subd. Bo Sucal
Minimum Bid Price 3,300,000

PARAÑAQUE CITY

LOT 15 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 188.5 sqm.
Unit 602, 6/F, Bayview International Towers, Tower 1 (with parking)
Minimum Bid Price 5,000,000

LOT 16 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 65 sqm.
Unit 804-A, 8/F, Bayview International Towers, Tower 1
Minimum Bid Price 1,800,000

LOT 17 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 60 sqm.
Unit 2004, 20/F Bayview International Towers, Tower 2
Minimum Bid Price 2,000,000

LOT 18 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 167.09 sqm.
Unit 2204, 22/F, Pacific Coast Plaza Condo., Aguinaldo Blvd. cor 1st Villamar
Minimum Bid Price 2,800,000

LOT 19 - TOWNHSE
Lot Area 116 sqm.
Floor Area 130 sqm.
L2 B4 Hamilton Gardens, Better Living Subd
Minimum Bid Price 1,650,000

LOT 20 - TOWNHSE
Lot Area 100 sqm.
Floor Area 101 sqm.
L1 B4 Hamilton Gardens, Better Living Subd., Parañaque City
Minimum Bid Price 1,500,000

LOT 21 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 10,312.24 sqm.
Lot 1-A-1 Beside Merville Park Subd. fronting Alpine St.
Minimum Bid Price 25,000,000

PASAY CITY

LOT 22 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 767.25 sqm.
Floor Area 2,038 sqm.
Blk. 7 No. 26 or 2364 Dominga St., Brgy San Isidro, Pasay City
Minimum Bid Price 19,000,000

PASIG CITY

LOT 23 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,614 sqm.
Floor Area 212 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk. 1 E. Amang Rodriguez Ave. corner Road Lot 1, Brgy. Rosario
Minimum Bid Price 15,500,000

LOT 24 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 67.69 sqm.
Unit 1210, 12/F, Parc Royale Condo., Doña Juha Vargas Ave. cor. Meralco Ave.
Minimum Bid Price 2,500,000

QUEZON CITY

LOT 25 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,380 sqm.
L6 Quezon Ave., Brgy. West Triangle
Minimum Bid Price 83,300,000

LOT 26 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 60.6 sqm.
Floor Area 190.51 sqm.
Mayon cor. M. Cuenco St., Sta. Teresita
Minimum Bid Price 3,000,000

LOT 27 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 895.6 sqm.
Floor Area 1,109.5 sqm.
L 2 No. 96 Judge Juan Luna St., Fulgencio & M H Del Pilar Sts., Brgy. Paltok, Project 7
Minimum Bid Price 12,500,000

LOT 28 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,354.2 sqm.
Floor Area 1,404 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk. S-13, No 53 Sct Tortilla cor Sct Borromeo Sts., Brgy. South Triangle, Diliman
Minimum Bid Price 17,500,000

LOT 29

LOT 30 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 400 sqm.
L5 B1 Vista Real Classica Phase 1-B, Matandang Balara
Minimum Bid Price 1,400,000

LOT 31 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 379 sqm.
L1 B2 Vista Real Classica Phase 1-B, Matandang Balara
Minimum Bid Price 1,327,000

LOT 32 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 285 sqm.
L4 B3 Vista Real Classica Phase 1-B, Matandang Balara
Minimum Bid Price 998,000

LOT 33 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 268 sqm.
L7 B3 Vista Real Classica Phase 1-B, Matandang Balara
Minimum Bid Price 938,000

LOT 34 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 290 sqm.
L8 B3 Vista Real Classica Phase 1-B, Matandang Balara
Minimum Bid Price 1,015,000

LOT 35 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 390 sqm.
L12 B3 Vista Real Classica Phase 1-B, Matandang Balara
Minimum Bid Price 1,365,000

LOT 36 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 310 sqm.
L14 B3 Vista Real Classica Phase 1-B, Matandang Balara
Minimum Bid Price 1,085,000

LOT 37 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 367 sqm.
L11 B11 Vista Real Classica, Phase II, Matandang Balara
Minimum Bid Price 1,285,000

LOT 38 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 319 sqm.
L3 B9 Vista Real Classica, Phase II, Matandang Balara
Minimum Bid Price 1,117,000

LOT 39 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 109.92 sqm.
Rooftdeck 1B, Penthouse, Heart of the City Condo., No 40 Sgt. Esguerra cor. E. Lopez St. (Sct. Albano), Brgy South Triangle, Diliman
Minimum Bid Price 2,600,000

LOT 40 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 676 sqm.
Floor Area 163.22 sqm.
Lot 2 # 3 San Martin St., San Pedro Compound 2 & 3, Tandang Sora
Minimum Bid Price 3,500,000

LOT 41 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 603 sqm.
Floor Area 1,440 sqm.
L5-A No. 23-A Villegas St., Brgy. Bungad, San Francisco Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price 9,000,000

ADDITIONAL

BULACAN

LOT 42 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 125 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 2, Villa Cecilia Subd., Brgy. Sto Cristo Baliuag
Minimum Bid Price 275,000

LOT 43 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 180 sqm.
Lot 1, Villa Cecilia Subd., Brgy Sto Cristo Baliuag
Minimum Bid Price 360,000

LOT 44 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 250 sqm.
Floor Area 62 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 2, No 310 Emerald St. Villa Cecilia Subd. Brgy Sto Cristo Baliuag
Minimum Bid Price 1,000,000

LOT 45 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 625 sqm.
Floor Area 206 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 1, Emerald St Villa Cecilia Subd Brgy Sto Cristo Baliuag
Minimum Bid Price 2,000,000

LOT 46 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,157 sqm.
Floor Area 1,450 sqm.
Lot 36-B-2-B-4-A Brgy Pulong Yantok, Angat
Minimum Bid Price 3,500,000

LOT 47 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 5,555 sqm.
Lot 220-D Brgy Burol 1st Balagtas
Minimum Bid Price 14,000,000

LOT 48 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,814 sqm.
Floor Area 2,040 sqm.
Lot 686-B Brgy Concepcion Baliuag
Minimum Bid Price 9,500,000

LOT 49 - LOT W/ WHSE
Lot Area 3,330 sqm.
Floor Area 1,817 sqm.
No. 13 Provincial Rd., Brgy Hulo, Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price 7,500,000

LOT 50 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 252 sqm.
Floor Area 521 sqm.
No 12 Corinthian St., Mt Carmel Subd., Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price 2,250,000

LOT 51 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,499 sqm.
Floor Area 811.4 sqm.
Lot 86 Provl Rd (Calle Rizal), Brgy Poblacion, Paombong
Minimum Bid Price 5,500,000

LOT 52 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 720 sqm.
Floor Area 514 sqm.
S.T.A. Ave. and Magenta St., Pecsonville Subd. Brgy Tungkong Mangga, San Jose del Monte
Minimum Bid Price 2,000,000

LOT 53 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 6,000 sqm.
Floor Area 1,029 sqm.
Lot 1968-D-1, Poblacion Rd., Brgy. Caphan, San Rafael
Minimum Bid Price 5,600,000

CAVITE

LOT 54 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 420 sqm.
L2 B7, Royal Pines West Subd., Ph II, Tagaytay-Amadeo Rd. Brgy Kaybagay, Tagaytay City
Minimum Bid Price 2,310,000

LOT 55 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 568.3 sqm.
L2 B5, Royal Pines West Subd., Ph II, Tagaytay-Amadeo Rd., Brgy Kaybagay, Tagaytay City
Minimum Bid Price 3,125,650

LOT 56 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 571.3 sqm.
L3 B5, Royal Pines West Subd., Ph II, Tagaytay-Amadeo Rd., Brgy Kaybagay, Tagaytay City
Minimum Bid Price 3,142,150

LOT 57 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 572 sqm.
L3 B7, Royal Pines West Subd., Ph II, Tagaytay-Amadeo Rd., Brgy Kaybagay, Tagaytay City
Minimum Bid Price 3,146,000

LOT 58 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 595.4 sqm.
L1 B5, Royal Pines West Subd., Ph II, Tagaytay-Amadeo Rd., Brgy Kaybagay, Tagaytay City
Minimum Bid Price 3,274,700

LOT 59 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 676.5 sqm.
L10 B1, Royal Pines West Subd., Ph II, Tagaytay-Amadeo Rd., Brgy. Kaybagay, Tagaytay City
Minimum Bid Price 3,720,750

LOT 60 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,091 sqm.
Lot 19 Blk 19, Cabo del Sol, Manila Southwoods Ph 3, Brgy., Cabilang Baybay, Carmona
Minimum Bid Price 4,900,000

LOT 61 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 400 sqm.
L5 B5, Ph IV, Wheat Rd., Orchard Residential Estate Subd., Brgy Salitran, Dasmariñas
Minimum Bid Price 800,000

LOT 62 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,890 sqm.
Floor Area 1,735 sqm.
Lot 2, Medicion Rd., Brgy Medicion 2nd, Imus, Cavite
Minimum Bid Price 14,500,000

LOT 63 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 23,626 sqm.
Within Unwinde Sales Coastal City Brgy Timalan Nac
Minimum Bid Price 21,300,000

LOT 64 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 8,641 sqm.
Sherwood Hills Resdl Estate & Golf Country Club, Brgy. Cabeza & Iallana, Trece Martirez
Minimum Bid Price 10,500,000

CALOOCAN

LOT 65 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 202 sqm.
L2 B1, Oakland St., Vista Verde North Vill
Minimum Bid Price 550,000

LAGUNA

LOT 66 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 520 sqm.
Lot 6843 No 243 JP Rizal St., Poblacion Cabuyao
Minimum Bid Price 4,700,000

LOT 67 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 872 sqm.
Austin cor Monte Rosa St South Peak II, San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price 2,700,000

LOT 68 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 521 sqm.
Floor Area 443 sqm.
Lot 16 Blk 1 Sampaguita Ave., Sampaguita Vill San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price 2,100,000

MALABON

LOT 69 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 290 sqm.
Floor Area 133 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 14, Willow cor Creekside St., Victoneta North Subd Brgy Potrero
Minimum Bid Price 2,500,000

LOT 70 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 152 sqm.
Unit 201, The Yellowbell Mansion Condo 812 Yellowbell St Araneta University Vill., Potrero
Minimum Bid Price 2,000,000

LOT 71 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,386.7 sqm.
Floor Area 190 sqm.
Lot 2-A-5 No 302, M Siason St., Brgy. Dampalit
Minimum Bid Price 2,700,000

LOT 72 - LOT W/ WHSE
Lot Area 3,665 sqm.
Floor Area 4,839 sqm.
L6 B19 479 Engineering Rd Potrero
Minimum Bid Price 40,000,000

RIZAL

LOT 73 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 422 sqm.
L29 B7, Apo cor Banahaw Sts., Town & Country Hills, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price 850,000

LOT 74 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 576 sqm.
L1 B9 Michigan Bend cor Arkansas St. Palos Verdes Exec Village, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price 1,100,000

LOT 75 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,200 sqm.
Floor Area 934 sqm.
Along Provincial Road Brgy Calumpang, Binangonan
Minimum Bid Price 5,350,000

LOT 76 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 256 sqm.
Floor Area 968 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 7 Maganda St., Riverside Subd Cainta
Minimum Bid Price 4,000,000

VALENZUELA

LOT 77 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 3,012 sqm.
Lot 5, Brgy Bignay
Minimum Bid Price 3,000,000

LOT 78 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 345 sqm.
Floor Area 154 sqm.
Lot 2779-G-5 No 18 G Cruz St., Angeles Subd Brgy Dalandanan, Bo. Pasolo
Minimum Bid Price 1,400,000

LOT 79 - LOT W/ WHSE
Lot Area 8,935 sqm.
Floor Area 2,158 sqm.
Lot 306-B-2-B, Alarcon St., Sitio Sto. Rosario, (formerly sitio Malabo) Brgy Maisan
Minimum Bid Price 20,000,000

CBRE CB RICHARD ELLIS | AUCTION MANAGER

PLEASE CONFIRM ATTENDANCE TO ENSURE SEATS

(02) 7592334 / 7522580

BROKERS ARE WELCOME

FOR MORE INFORMATION

DON : 0920-921-6150
MIKE : 0920-938-0118
EARLY : 0917-856-6885
JIBONG 0922-804-2496

ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS. PROPERTIES, DATES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

DBP

Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on September 6, 2006, 2:00 p.m., 12th Floor, Suite 5, Executive Lounge of the DBP Head Office, Sen.Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on **CASH BASIS**:

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (sq.m.)	LOCATION	Minimum Bid
REAL ESTATE				
BULACAN				
AM-ED-137	House and lot (TCT T-100505)	370	Villarica Homes, Lolomboy, Bocaue	P 930,120.00
CAVITE				
PF-GT-01	House and lot (TCT T-1143687)	77	522 Petal St., Camelia Homes, Nueva Subd., Bayang Luma, Imus	P 419,400.00
GENERAL SANTOS				
PF-GT-02	2 adjoining vacant residential lots (TCT Nos. T-78605, T-78606)	744	Lots 1 & 2 Blk. 3 Falgui Subd., Brgy. Lagao, GSC	P 668,800.00
KIDAPAWAN				
PF-GT-03	House and lot (TCT T-78472)	518	Robles Subd., Sudapin	P 504,400.00
PUERTO PRINCESA				
PF-GT-04	House and lot (TCT T-130858)	248	Lot 13 Blk 4 Avenida Central & Avenida Principal, Alta Homes Subd., San Jose	P 505,600.00
RIZAL				
PF-GT-05	Vacant residential lot (TCT No. 633529)	128	Lot 22 Blk 23 Pomelo St., Greenwoods Executive Vill. Ph. 6, San Juan, Cainta	P 658,000.00
(CHATTELS - Sale on "as is where is basis")				
PF-GT-06	One (1) unit Toyota Revo 2002, GLX, w/ plate no. XFW 275		DBP Depot, Doña Severina Compound, Parañaque City	P 425,000.00
CWB-01	10 passenger jeepney units		La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	P 375,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2158/2159 for Code starting with AM, 815-1608 or 818-9511 local 2715 for PFGT and 920-49-09 for CWB.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – August 21 & 22, 2006)

STARCM

SUPPORT TO AGRARIAN REFORM COMMUNITIES IN CENTRAL MINDANAO
Project Management Office
3rd Floor ROMA Building, Quezon Boulevard, Kidapawan City 9400
☎ Tel. #: (064) 278-4009 Fax: (064) 278-4252 Email: starcm@philcom.ph

DAR

NOTICE OF VACANT POSITION

STARCM is a special Project of the **Government of the Philippines** funded by the European Union and implemented by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). The Project provides support for the development of agrarian reform communities in the provinces of Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur. The Project is seeking to fill the position in Kidapawan City:

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR (1) Duty Station: Kidapawan City	Should have a **Bachelor's degree** in applied social sciences, preferably in Nursing, Social Work, Public Health and Administration, Rural Sociology, or Community Development. A related MS degree will be an advantage. He/she will have at least five (5) years experience with the provision of health services, community organising and/or rural development work in coordination with LGUs. Familiarity with the delivery of health services at the barangay level will be an advantage.

The Specialist must be physically fit and prepared to undertake fieldwork throughout Central Mindanao. S/he must be fluent in English and highly proficient with Microsoft Office software.

Only shortlisted applicants will be notified. Deadline for the submission of applications is on **31 AUGUST 2006.**

(Sgd.) GLYNN P. BAKER
European Co-Director

(Sgd.) OSCAR A. MAMA
National Project Director

An application letter, including a resumé detailing duties, responsibilities and relevant experience, and copy of transcript of records should be submitted to:

The Project Co-Directors
STARCM Project Management Office
3/F ROMA Building, Quezon Boulevard, 9400 Kidapawan City

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722-1155

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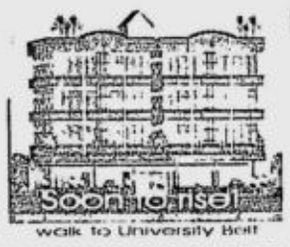

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OBITUARIES

Our dear

Carmencita S. Lozada

Violinist

passed away on August 15, 2006
at the Lung Center of the Philippines.

She is survived by her brother, **Manuel** and sister, **Teresita**.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated in her honor at 3 PM on Friday, August 25, 2006 at the Christ the King Chapel, Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City.

We request the readers for prayers for her eternal repose.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

In Loving Memory
on the occasion of the
3rd Death Anniversary

EARL KNOWLES WILKINSON

15 March 1927-21 August 2003

His family requests relatives, friends, and pious readers to please remember him in their prayers.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

ANNOUNCEMENT

INQUIRER SM Megamall Branch is open today, from 10:00 am-9:00 pm to serve your Classifieds needs.

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CALUMPIT WATER DISTRICT
Calumpit, Bulacan
Tel. Nos. (044) 675-2680, 202-5479
Tele fax: (044) 202-5125

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The CALUMPIT WATER DISTRICT, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	:	CWD Office Building Construction
Brief Description	:	Three-Storey Office Building with Roof Deck
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	:	Php 17,602,364.00
Contract Duration	:	240 Regular Working Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with the value at least 50% of the ABC and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of bids. The BAC will conduct post qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening bid Security, Performance Security, Pre Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) and Application for Eligibility	up to August 28, 2006 @ 4:00 p.m.
2. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	August 29, 2006 @ 4:00 p.m.
3. Results of Eligibility Check and Short-listing	September 4, 2006 @ 4:00 p.m.
4. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 5 to 7, 2006 @ 4:00 p.m.
5. Pre Bid Conference	September 11, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m.
6. Receipt and Opening of Bids	September 25, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the Calumpit Water District – Commercial Department Office at Corazon, Calumpit, Bulacan upon submission of LOI and upon a payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 1,000.00 to Calumpit Water District Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the Notice of Eligibility from the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 10,000.00 to Calumpit Water District Cashier. The bidders may submit their bids and transact business with BAC Chairman, Mrs. Elvira M. Rañopa.

The Calumpit Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Date of Publication: **August 14 & August 21, 2006**

(Sgd.) **MRS. ELVIRA M. RAÑOPA**
BAC – Chairman

(PDI–August 14 & 21, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

PR Number	No. of Line Items	Description	Approved Budget
GT 617250	2	2006 Male Pants Uniform	PHP 4,986,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Materials Management Group c/o Luchie G. Reducto starting on **August 14, 2006 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Four Hundred Pesos (PH 400.00)** per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference will be held on **September 04, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Procurement Conference Room, PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, Leyte Geothermal Production Field, Bgy. Tongonan, Ormoc City, Leyte.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be dropped inside the public bidding bid box (with logbook provided) located at the Procurement Section Office, Admin. Services Department, PNOC-EDC, Admin Complex, Leyte Geothermal Production Field, Tongonan, Leyte not later than **9:30 a.m.** (Procurement Conference Room wall clock time) of **September 19, 2006** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. Late submission of bids or bids still hand-carried by bidders beyond the specified due date and time shall not be entertained.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–August 14 & 21, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5291

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Four (4) pcs Titration System with Chem Station	Approved Budget
FGM 60312	PHP4,462,800.00
Various Drilling Equipment Spares	Approved Budget
FDM 63302	PHP1,602,900.00
FDM 63303	PHP 583,400.00
FDM 63304	PHP 207,600.00 (item 1)
	PHP 185,200.00 (item 2)
FDM 63305	PHP 717,500.00 (item 1)
	PHP 240,100.00 (item 2)
FDM 63306	PHP 204,000.00
FDM 63308	PHP 1,633,500.00
FDM 63309	PHP 2,628,700.00
FDM 63310	PHP 2,394,400.00
FDM 63311	PHP 1,713,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Harold T. Fontillas** for the requirement of Drilling Equipment Spares, and **Anthony E. Ciriaco** for the requirement of Titration System with Chem Station, starting August 14, 2006, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference will be held on **August 24, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter, dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m.** (Supply Management Department Office Wall Clock Time) of **September 7, 2006**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI–August 14 & 21, 2006)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO, Tel. Nos. 893-6001 to 47/893-1320 local 5388 Fax No. 840-1575

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

PR No.	Description	Approved Budget	Bid Opening Date
GO-616110	Various Sizes of Cable Wires	PHP 4,362,100.00	September 14, 2006
PN-637812	Solar LED Light-in-a-box System	PHP 4,028,000.00	September 15, 2006

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Cielo B. de Castro** starting **August 18, 2006**, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **August 30, 2006, 2:00 pm** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Office Wall Clock Time) at the above date**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman- Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI–Aug. 21 & 28, 2006)

NOTICE TO CLIENTS OF UKFP (ASIA) HK LIMITED (FORMERLY TOWRY LAW (ASIA) HK LIMITED)

UKFP (Asia) HK Limited (formerly Towry Law (Asia) HK Limited) is seeking to contact the following clients concerning the matters set out in the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission's (SFC) press release dated 2 May 2006:

Ian Clark and Angela Mary Booth
Adel Ali Al A'Ali
Ahmad A A A and Sarah H M A A Bukhalaf Alramadhan
Alexander Bernard Richardson
Basem Ahmed Omar and Jumana Rizk Musallam Saleh
Deena Abdulrazad Shirazi
Harshdeep Singh and Ranjini Munjal
Hassan Adel Mohamed and Ajawi Fatima Mahmood Abuhassan
Hesham Ahmed Omar Saleh
Husain Ali Naeemi
Iain Charles and Wendy Ann Mackay
John Anthony Witter
John Simon Beardshaw
Khalid Mohamed Ali Mattar
Mohamed Abdulla Rashed Khalifa Aldhaen
Mohamed and Vaciantina Shauchenka Amozlouf
Mohamed Sadeq Khalil Dewani
Neil Arthur Stafford
Nigel Christopher Read Jones
Nigel Mark and Vicky Evans
Othman Yusuf Janahi
Raed Ahmed Omar Saleh
Richard Kenneth Morris
Robert Andrew Smith
Sameer Mohamed Sadeq Khalil Dawani
Shawqi Ali Yusuf Fakhroo
Shrinivas Waman and Archana Shrinivas Ainapure
Kannanur Puthan Madathil Babu and Sumangala Kalathil Panambatta Sahadev
Adrian Jessop
Anthony McCann
Denis and Elizabeth O'Hare
Levon Yenovkian
Anthony Corbett Evans
Chi Ming Wong
Ching Kwong Chan and Pui Shan Cheung
Christian A M Brogsitter-Finck
Chun Keung Raymond Cheung
Chung Lai Lawrence Ma
Dominique Michael Bongrain
Emma Louise Santler
Fan Fanny Cheng
Foreign Trader Holdings Ltd
Frederick Roy White
Ganendran Sarvananthan
Geoffrey Nigel Booth
Giovanni and Hyun Hee Cecilia Angelini
Gordon Pheysey and Deborah Joshua
Ho Suen John Hon
Hon Ki Cheng
Ilaria Marta Corinna Galimberti
Jeremy Alexander Glen
John Keith Courtis
John Miles Fuller
John Patrick Murphy
Jonathan Richard Hillary and Moira Gwenllian James
Joseph Sriyal Malik and Sharmala Peiris
Ka Lai Vicky Lui
Kam Chuen Oliver Yip
Kam Hung Daniel Sun
Kim Anthony Salkeld
Kim Berry
Kin Sang Leung and Lai Fong See
Kwok Ho Bruno Li
Kwok Kay Ng and Lai Chun Ng
Loong Lu Lim
Loxson International Ltd
Lucky Star Investments Ltd
Man Wai Wai
Miyuki Masuyama
Mohan Tarachand Bharwaney
Muhandiramge Raveendranath Chandrakumar and Rohini Mangalika Rodrigo
Open Skies Investments Limited
Paul Richard Jackson
Peter Jeremy Newton
Robert Benjamin Pawlyn
Shing On Stephen Leung
Simon John Mawson
Sin Man Chu
Siu Ling Cheung
Siu Man Law
Siu Yeung Tsui
Steven Ashley Burns
Tai Cheung Wu
Tak Chi Michael Yeung
The Late Mr Gerard Muldoon
Timothy Wodehouse Everest
Trevor Neil Freeman
Vivien Joan Mather (Eakin)
Yat Cheong Thomas and Suet Mui Zela Wong Lam
Yat Wing and Oi Kuen Catherine Pong Lee
Yau Cheong Victor and Yin Mui Adelaide Fung
Yeung Ho Tsui
Ying Fong Hsu
Yu Ngong Wu
Yuk Luen Lydia Cheng
Rajan and Sudha Ananthanarayanan
Nasir Saleem Haji
Vaidyanathan and Geeta Ramanathan
Edgar Solenthaler
Martin Henrik Budich
Almunir Aziz and Shebina Amlani Kurji
Aziz Ahmed Habib and Firdos Siddiqui
Bader J H Alsumait
John Henry Morley
Kenneth Ferrol Melvin
Khaled S A A Almansour
Mahmood Ahmad Saeed
Martin Jeffrey De Lange
Naheed Ahmed Y Mohseni
Sadeq Hassan M Ahmed Ebrahim
Taranbir Singh and Kiranbir Kaur Sawhney
Anthony Paul Tottman
Donald Allan Macleod
Guat Leng Chew
James Joseph McMahon
Martyn John Cuell
Nigel Douglas and Yue Chin Angela Yeo Mckenzie
Richard James and Mary E Bisset
Abdul Raouf Abudayyeh
Abdul Raouf and Huda Mahmoud M Abu Qumsan Abudayyeh
Ashok Kumar and Ranju Sardiwal
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Christopher John and Karen Green
Devyani Sudhir and Ameet Sudhir Sampat
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James Russell Cameron
Kenneth Alexander McAllister
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Rajan Paul and Sheeba Rajan
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Soi Wai Lio
Caroline Denise Heider
Ashraf Naguib and Eva Farid Guirguis Makram
Zakaria Kh A Abdel Aziz
Alastair John and Gillian Carole Henderson
Andrew Fyfe and Joan Ann Russell
Anil and Sneh Vig
Eric Martin Shaw
Fadia H Mohmmed R Koheel
Gafar Mohamed Issa Salih and Samira Abu Elgasim Mohamed Ahmed
George Anthony Balchin
Hanan Ali H Shobokshi
Hassan Ali Al Sanad
Hassan Ali H Shobokshi
Hayat Ali H Shobokshi
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Mushtaq Ahmad and Bilquis Bakhshi
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Stephen John Holland
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Graham Heber Melt De Villiers
Hamilton Maxwell Ziervogel
John Frederick Eccles
Ajay and Sumeera Bahl
Alastair Ronald Weston
Anthony Gerard and Pauline Anne Coll
Fausto and Manella Tedesco Nepote
George Nayef Iskandar Kassisieh
Gordon James William Ratcliffe
James Michael Stokes
Laszlo Sandor Sztriha
Linda Patricia Mahoney
Martin Robert and Elizabeth Diane Bleasdale
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Muthuswamy Ravi
Nirain John Lobo
Patrick and Gillian Anne Luby
Roger Elias Zogheib
Saleh Qasem Mohammad Al Khateeb
Saleh Qasem Mohammad and Asem Saleh Qasem Al Khatib Al Khateeb
Sami Khaled Amer Rashid
Shripad Keshav and Suhasini Shripad Gokhale
Suvobroto and Chaitali Sarkar
Taleb Abdel Rahim Mustafa Hamdallah
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Yousef Awad Y Qumsieh
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John Henry Bruce Comey
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Niels-Erik and Karen Margrethe Jensen
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Panagi Neophyte Pythagoras and Vitoria Nicolas Pafitis
Patrick Noel Horsfall Macoun
Philip John Marlow
Trayten Investments Limited
Yuen Ling Fung
Andrei Tolstiakov
David Eustace and Rose Marie Dacosta
Declan Patrick Doogan
Fernando Vallina
Frederic Turlier
George Bernard Russell
Haipeng Qian

Could these clients, or anyone who knows of their whereabouts, please contact UKFP (Asia) HK Limited at the following address immediately:

UKFP (Asia) HK Limited
Unit D, 10/F, Greenwich Centre, 260 King's Road, Fortress Hill, Hong Kong
Email: gearing@ukfp.com Telephone: +852 2830 7111

The SFC's press release can be found at www.sfc.hk. If you have any questions as to the press release you can contact the SFC at (852) 2283 6120.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: www.lto.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines
LTO INSIDE WINDSHIELD VALIDATION STICKERS AND PLATE YEAR TAGS FOR 1ST AND 2ND QUARTER OF 2007

The Land Transportation Office, through the General Funds (Fund 101) intends to apply the sum of Fifteen Million One Hundred Thirty Four Thousand Twenty Pesos (P15,134,020.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the procurement of LTO Inside Windshield Validation Stickers and Plate Year Tags for the 1st and 2nd Quarter of 2007. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Land Transportation Office now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the items. The required delivery schedule will be indicated in the approved Contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Sub-Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php10,000.00, in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Land Transportation Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 7, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at the LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before September 19, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half Percent (1 ½%)
3. Surety Bond	Two and a half Percent (2 ½%)
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred Percent (100%)

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on September 19, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The Land Transportation Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Land Transportation Office
Atty. Jimmy G. Pesigan – Chairman, BAC
East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 9219077 – telefax
Engr. Roberto S. Se – Chairman, BAC Sub-Committee
Property Section, LTO, East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 9292015 – telefax

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JIMMY G. PESIGAN**
BAC – Chairman

(PDI–August 21, 2006)

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
Trans Co
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance
San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, Philippines 4024

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply of Labor and Supervision for Jobs Related to Janitorial Services, Landscape, Plantscape of Transco-SLOM Offices, Installation & Assets (Package III)

[TRANS-05-JAN-EBDP3-02-PB2]

1. The *NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, South Luzon Operation & Maintenance (TRANSCO-SLOM)* through the *Internal Cash Generation (ICG)* intends to apply the sum of *Php10,476,085.92* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *TRANS-05-JAN-EBD-02-PB2P3 (Supply of Labor & Supervision for Jobs Related to Janitorial Services, Landscape, Plantscape of Transco SLOM Offices, Installations & Assets (Package III)*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-SLOM* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *the Supply of Labor and Supervision for Jobs Related to Janitorial Services, Landscape, Plantscape of Transco SLOM Offices.* Delivery of the SERVICES is required *as listed below.* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from National Transmission Corporation-South Luzon Operations & Maintenance (SLOM) Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO) and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00A.M. to 5:00 P.M on **August 16-September 08, 2006.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from ***August 16, 2006 to September 08, 2006*** at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Php1,000.00.* The method of payment will be *Cash.* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *TRANSCO-SLOM* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***September 13, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at *the address below.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before ***September 27, 2006/9:30 A.M.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form stated in Section II Instructions to Bidders Clause 22 of the Tender Documents in Philippine peso or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on ***September 27, 2006 / 9:30 A. M.*** at the *OAVP Conference Room B, same address below.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, SLOM
Mr. Ruben G. Castuera, BAC Chairman
Regional Contracts Management Office
San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.
Tel. No. (02) 9814576 local 4007, 4094, 4053
Website : www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **RUBEN G. CASTUERA**
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI–Aug. 12 & 21, 2006)

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BUSINESS

Banks told not to sell foreign insurance

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas has warned local banks against selling life insurance policies issued by foreign insurance companies that are not licensed to operate in the country.

"Apparently, many banks are marketing life insurance policies from companies without operations here," BSP Deputy Governor for bank supervision Nestor Espenilla Jr. said after the Monetary Board meeting Thursday night.

"We issued a memorandum reminding them that it's not legal to do that."

Espenilla said that the BSP has yet to catch a bank violating this prohibition.

Under the memorandum dated Aug. 17, "prior approval of the MB is required before banks can engage in cross-selling of products ... said products are limited to those of the banks' allied undertakings (referring to subsidiaries and affiliates) only.

"In case of sale of insurance products of insurance company affiliates, said affiliates must be accredited or pre-cleared by the Insurance Commission," it added, warning potential violators of stiff penalties.

The BSP allowed bancassurance, or the sale of life insurance products to bank clients, in the Philippines six years ago. But for a bank to be able to sell insurance in the Philippines, it has to own 5 percent of the insurance company whose product it is selling.

Local regulations on bancassurance are more conservative compared to other parts of Asia. In most countries, except Malaysia, banks are allowed to tie up with multiple insurance companies. In Hong Kong, regulators impose on its banks a maximum of four insurance partnerships.

Separately, the BSP is likewise cracking down on banks' handling of foreign mutual fund securities to prevent local investors from making reckless overseas investments.

A circular has been drafted to regulate the sale and marketing of GTPMFs, or even ban such products from the Philippine market.

A mutual fund is operated by an investment company that raises money from shareholders and invests it in stocks, bonds, options, commodities, or money market securities. These funds offer investors the advantages of diversification and professional management.

The proposed tightening on foreign mutual funds sold or marketed by banks in the Philippines will also shield investors from mutual funds that do not perform well.

However, there is still a legal question as to whether the BSP could totally prohibit the sale of GTPMFs. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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Investors seek out RP assets

With peso seen to stabilize, inflation outlook appears rosy

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOREIGN INVESTORS ARE LOADING UP ON Philippine portfolio assets, fueling the peso's recovery against the US dollar, despite the dampening effect of high oil prices and declining debt paper yields against comparative securities abroad.

"Yet these trends are accompanied by the continued strong inflows of portfolio investments in debt and equity, and these have brought about the continued strengthening of the peso," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo told reporters on Friday.

He said that if the peso were to continue to stabilize at these levels, then the outlook on inflation would become more promising for the rest of the year and in 2007.

However, Guinigundo noted that domestic treasury yields in the country were declining, and some maturities were again starting to incur negative differentials against offshore benchmarks.

After falling past 53:$1 in May, the peso has climbed back and almost touched 51:$1. Currency traders expect that the peso will soon hit the year's peak of 50.88 against the US dollar.

Instead of seeing a capital flight, which is what usually happens when local bond yields fall too low against comparative benchmarks abroad, the Philippines was able to keep offshore investors hooked to local assets due to improvements in the country's macroeconomic fundamentals, Guinigundo said.

According to a report which the BSP research department submitted to the policy-making Monetary Board, the spot price of Dubai crude oil increased by about $1.76 per barrel to $72.24 per barrel on Aug. 8 over a week ago, while Brent crude oil from the September 2006 deliveries in the oil futures market rose to $77.28 per barrel from $76.89 a week ago.

International spot prices rose as crude, gasoline and distillate fuel inventories fell following the shutdown of a major pipeline in Alaska.

Based on the latest monthly data, net foreign inflow to local stocks, debt papers and bank products surged by 50 percent to $117.3 million in July versus $78.1 million a year ago as investors earlier distracted by rising US interest rates returned to emerging markets like the Philippines.

This brought the seven-month net inflows to $890.9 million—still a far cry from the $1.93 billion windfall posted in the same period last year.

Portfolio inflow, the bulk of which consisted of investments in the stock market, is also tagged as "hot money" due to its volatile nature.

LADY OF THE RINGS
A Muslim teenager examines the rings that double up as charms on display along the national highway in Kabacan, North Cotabato. The charms sell for P10 apiece.
JEOFFREY MAITEM / INQUIRER MINDANAO

Gov't makes headway in carrying out ODA work, says World Bank

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE WORLD BANK HAS EXPRESSED ITS SATisfaction with the Philippine government's implementation of foreign-funded official development assistance (ODA) projects in 2005 and the first semester of 2006.

According to WB country director Joachim von Amsberg, Philippine government agencies have provided a better environment for implementation of ODA projects in the last 18 months, raising the confidence of the institution.

"The close coordination and the change in approach of aligning the budget to implement projects on time have significantly made the difference," Von Amsberg told the INQUIRER.

He noted that the World Bank is also revising its countrywide strategy for the Philippines to maximize co-funded projects.

The World Bank is currently financing some $1.2-billion worth of local development projects. Three loans worth $91 million are part of the country's ODA portfolio in 2005, data from the National Economic and Development Authority showed.

Part of the institution's new policy for ODA projects will provide the flexibility to permit financing of up to 100 percent of a project's total cost, the 14th Neda ODA Portfolio Review said.

That flexibility, which is also being adapted by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, may help address budget constraints as it will ease pressure on the national government to put up the much needed counterpart funding requirements of foreign-assisted projects, the Neda said.

Performance indicators of ODA-funded projects for government agencies include disbursement level, disbursement rate, availment rate and disbursement ratio, the Neda added.

In 2005, national line agencies and government-owned and -controlled corporations posted a 10 percent increase in the disbursement level that measures the actual utilization of the ODA loan.

ODA disbursement level in 2005 is at $1.205 billion compared to $1.095 billion in 2004, the Neda report said.

Program loan disbursement levels increased by 133 percent, from $75 million in 2004 to $175 million in 2005 because of disbursements made for two program loans: the Health Sector Program ($100 million) and Microfinance Development Program ($75 million).

In terms of infrastructure, the Neda recorded increases in disbursement levels with the award of civil work contracts under the General Santos Fishing Port and Laoag River Basin Flood Control Projects, and completion of civil work contracts for the Mindanao Second Roads Improvement Project.

Also, there was the procurement of five vessels under the Subic Bay Port Development Project; the start-up activities in the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway project; and budget provided for the Cordillera Road Improvement project, as well as rehabilitation and maintenance of bridges on Arterial Road Project IV.

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DA to set in place stricter rules for meat importers

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WILL soon impose stricter rules in issuing permits to meat importers to prevent the abuses of unscrupulous traders, Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban said.

Meat importers may soon be required to return the unused permits issued to them by the DA's National Meat Inspection Service and the Bureau of Animal Industry within a given period of time upon its receipt, Panganiban said. This is to prevent the misuse of the import permits.

"We would recall the unused import permits and [the importers] should cite why they were not utilized within the specified period," Panganiban said. "[DA officials] would then determine if [the traders] would still qualify for permits in the future."

According to the DA chief, the practice of some importers now is to lend their unused import permits to other traders who seek to smuggle in under-priced meat products.

"I have asked Assistant Secretary (Salvador) Salacup to study the matter thoroughly and see how this practice could be corrected," Panganiban said.

He also said that there is a need to strengthen the country's meat importation procedures, and put in place well-defined sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures to ensure the safety of products.

The country's P52-billion meat processing industry is still heavily dependent on the importation of manufacturing grade meat used by the meat processing and manufacturing industry. Members of the industry import some 201 million metric tons of manufacturing grade beef, chicken and pork each year.

The recent revisions to the Agriculture Department's Administrative Order 39, also known as the Meat Inspection Code, have been the subject of debate among industry groups over the last two years.

The government agency has yet to release details of the revisions.

The Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc. (Pampi) president Felix Tiukinhoy said that the DA should be careful in crafting importation laws, and make sure that the measures would not violate the trading laws of member countries of the World Trade Organization.

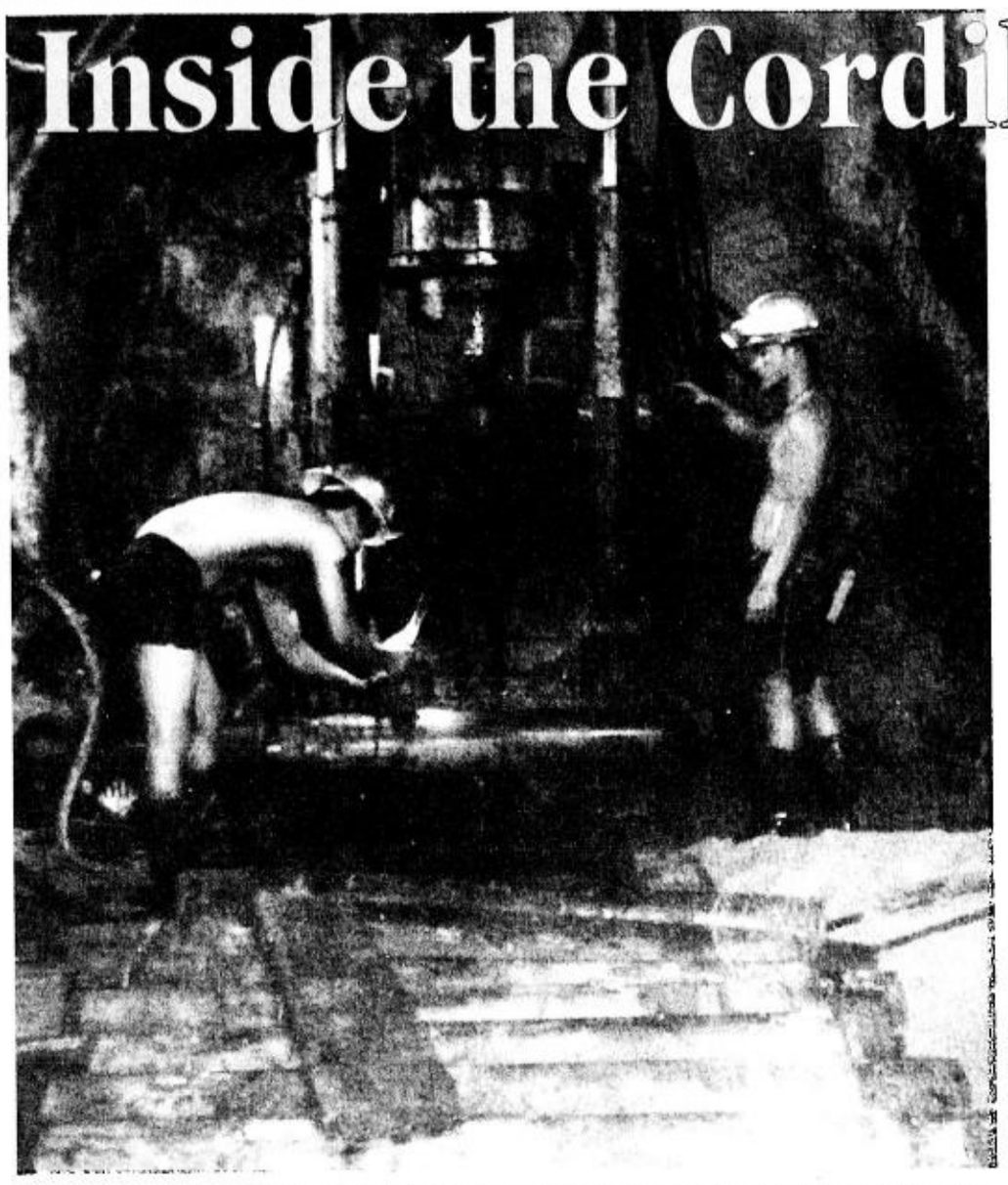
Pampi members include San Miguel Foods Corp., Jollibee Foods Corp., RFM's Swift Foods Corp., Foodsphere Inc.'s CDO Foodsphere Corp. *Christine A. Gaylican*

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

BUSINESS Monday Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Inside the Cordillera's mine tunnels

Gold mining is not as easy as one sees in the movies



DRILLING to test for the presence of gold and other minerals at 800 meters below sea level in Nayac Tunnel EV ESPIRITU / INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

By Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

MANKAYAN, Benguet—Miners at the Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. (LCMC) here call it "development drive." While it is a term loved only by economists and politicians, "development drive" is the noisiest and hottest endeavor in the mining company.

The entrance to the Nayak twin tunnels, which is within LCMC's Victoria 1 deposit, is well above sea level but miners and visitors (sorry, no women allowed) have to ride a caged elevator that seems to descend to the bowels of the earth.

Due to the heat, miners working at the tunnels are in their underwear and hardhats as they jam their jackhammers on solid rock. Actually, the rocks are enargite and luzonite, with significant deposits of the minerals tennantite-tetrahedrite, chalcopyrite, sphalerite, galena, native gold or electrum, and gold-silver tellurides.

DESERT MINES. Hot, humid, thin and dusty air in mines prompts this miner to drink lots of water to avoid dehydration.

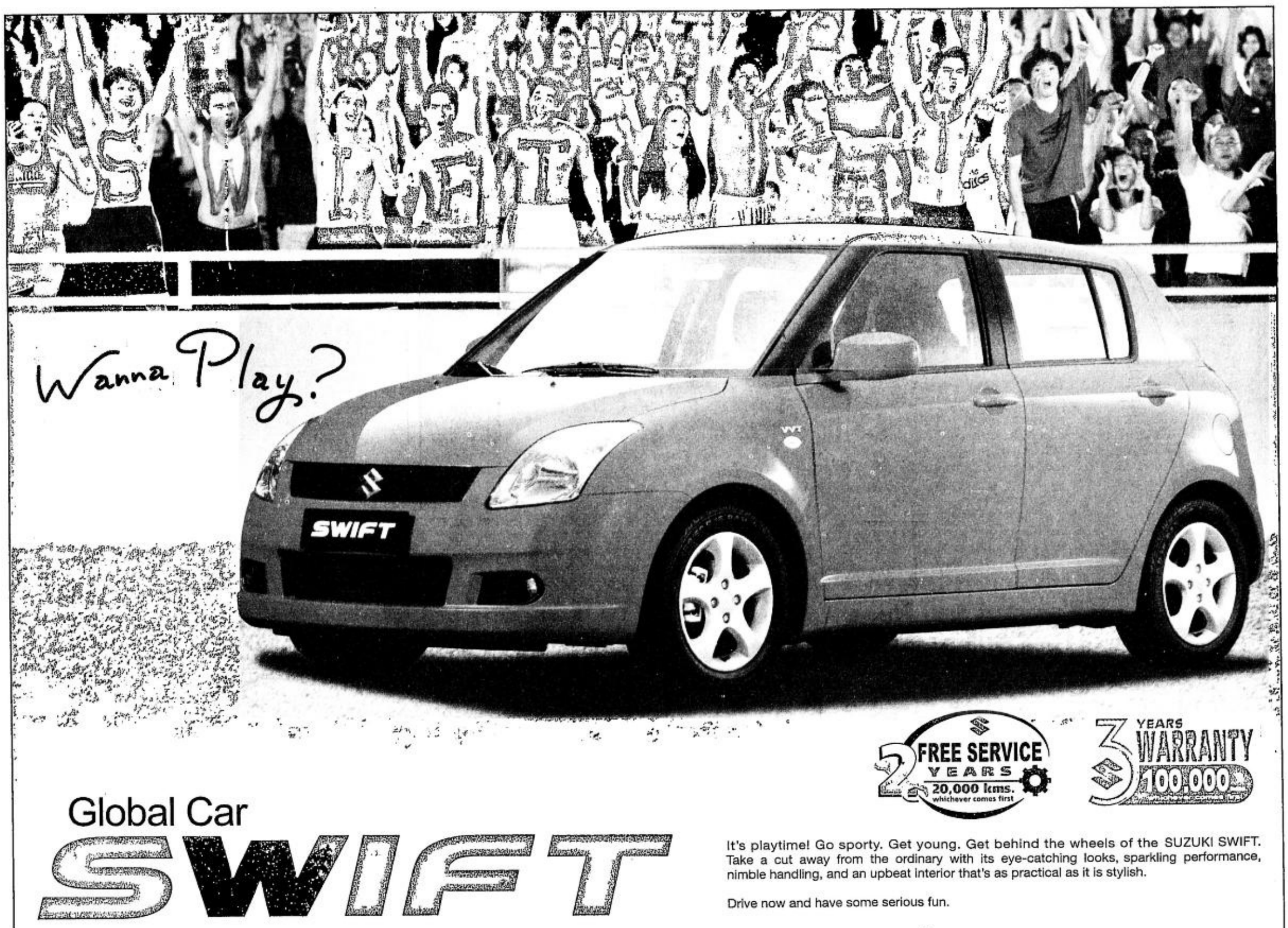
Giant blowers are used to suck out the air and also keep the tunnels cool. Explosives are also used on rocks that cannot be drilled.

The Nayak twin tunnels were completed in 2000 at a cost of $15 million. Two years later, LCMC would inaugurate its Victoria 2 deposit, which is 900 meters from Victoria 1.

Mankayan has been operating as a mine since the Chinese came in the 19th century.

The Spaniards came to mine the area but they were met by fierce opposition from residents here. This opposition has been likened by the Spaniards to the Turks in their native

INSIDE/ B2-2



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(054) 472-3577 to 79 / 472-3659

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(045) 860-5971 / (045) 961-3573

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Toward a green Philippines

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Corazon PB. Claudio

TREE PLANTING IS ONE OF THE MOST common activities on Earth Day and other environment events. But none will match the massive Green Philippine Highways project that will commence on Friday this week. It will cover about 3,000 kilometers of major highways from north to south of the country. It will involve more than half a million seedlings and saplings. And it will possibly form the longest chain of tree planters in the world.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), under the able leadership of Secretary Angelo Reyes, initiated this tree-planting project. But it has now evolved into a major multi-sectoral undertaking involving numerous organizations in the public and private sectors and local communities. It will demonstrate once again the use of people power, but this time for a positive cause that affects public health and safety.

But why focus on planting trees, one might ask, when there are urgent issues on or related to the environment needing attention, such as oil spill, mining, garbage collection, toxic and hazardous waste handling, and many others.

It is because trees can significantly alter our environment by alleviating air pollution and lowering air temperatures. Trees improve the quality of the air we breathe by removing carbon dioxide, suspended particulates, and other pollutants from the air, and by producing oxygen. The DENR estimates that about 50 million trees are needed to offset the air pollution caused by the five million registered motor vehicles in the country.

Heat-absorbing pavement and buildings lead to higher air temperatures. But trees can lower air temperature directly and simply through the shade they provide.

The concern about high temperature is not just for convenience but also for its impact on the globe, through global warming, which can lead to rising sea levels, catastrophic weather patterns, and disappearance of species. Scientists are now predicting that rising sea levels could affect more than half of the world's population who live in coastal areas. They could make entire communities disappear in Asia and in other places.

Time magazine (April 3, 2006) has sounded the alarm: The fast rate of global warming has brought the earth near the point where it may no longer be able to repair and regenerate itself.

Trees are also essential for ensuring the availability of another main resource for survival—water. They help conserve rainwater and reduce water pollution. Roots of trees, in fact even of ordinary reeds like "tambo," could act as a natural filter for removing pollutants in waste water.

Trees also reduce electricity consumption as their shade decreases the need for fan or air-conditioning. Trees provide enhanced privacy, reduce glare and reflection, and create a barrier for noise and wind. Well-selected trees also make a property visually appealing thus increasing its value.

Trees can improve the quality of life by uplifting one's moods and emotional health. Research has found that sick people recover faster when they can view a scenery with trees through their windows.

But Secretary Reyes and those of us who are now involved in the Green Philippine Highways envision the project to provide more than those direct benefits from the trees that will be planted. We also expect the project to demonstrate effective public-private partnership and teamwork and to encourage more people to care for the environment.

We hope most of the participants in the nationwide tree planting this Friday will eventually become environmental advocates. We need them to become our new freedom fighters, the GREEN Army that will arrest environmental degradation and free us from pollution.

Inspired by Secretary Reyes, 15 of us from the business sector and civil society, including three from the Management Association of the Philippines (Shell's country chair Ed Chua, recent Global Entrepreneur awardee Myrna Yao and I), have already initiated the formation of the GREEN Army. We expect our small group to grow fast soon as more and more people realize that poor environmental quality has become a major threat to life.

Defense of the environment should really be a national security concern. The GREEN Army will be at the forefront of such defense working with and supporting the DENR. I capitalize "green" since, for the army, green is not just a color or a reference to the terrestrial environment. We need to put up our defense in all areas, especially in the coastal and marine areas, the blue environment. We hope we can cover all those areas by the acronym GREEN.

(The author chairs the MAP environment and urban and development committee. Comments at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Confessions of a true-blue user

BY PROFESSION, 37-YEAR-OLD Carlo Ma. Guerrero, is a freelance photographer/writer—a job usually associated with the right brain or the creative side.

But Guerrero is also a "techie"—an interest more linked to the left brain. He is a hard-core Windows mobile user. Because of his passion for the field, he has joined a group acknowledged by Microsoft as MVP (Most Valuable Professional).

Guerrero is an "advocate" of mobile computing. He spends a big part of his time helping people discover the life of mobility.

GUERRERO

The beginning

As a freelance photographer, Carlo needed to organize his schedules. The typical way of doing this proved insufficient especially since he gets bookings a year in advance. Plotting his schedule on a board does not work either. Bottom line: he needed something that will facilitate bookings and schedules instantly.

He did research and found out that he could actually do all the things he wanted with a handheld computer. Before he made his purchase though, he looked into the specific features of the choices available, the popular brand and the Microsoft alternative. Most of his friends were using the more popular market leader.

Not the type to go with the flow and the latest fad, Carlo chose his equipment based on functionality. "When I was doing my research, they were objective with their comparison, but when I finally opted to get a Microsoft handheld, they were all surprised and told me that I made the wrong choice," Carlo narrates.

Fascinated with his new gadgets, Carlo explored the various features of his handheld. Recognizing the need for more information, Carlo set up the Pinoy Windows Mobile site in April of 2000 envisioned to be an interactive tool for sharing and receiving information about handheld devices. Today, there are around 2,500 registered members to the site, not to mention those who log on to the Web forums sponsored by Pinoy Windows Mobile.

Thanks to Carlo and his fellow users, Filipinos are beginning to get noticed in the online community.

"In 2003, we were already ranking as top 2 posters in international sites. Our local Web group has gotten quite comfortable sharing information and experiences with their handheld devices that they feel compelled to help others," Carlo explained. "The more we are able to help others, more members register and sign up, which means more resources and information are shared. Consequently we are able to help an even greater number of people. It's a self sustaining cycle."

Carlo explains mobile computing as absolute mobility. "It is the ability to do your usual computing (writing a document, preparing a worksheet, or a slide presentation) wherever, whenever while maintaining connectivity through all available mobile platforms. It's all about having access—computer, Internet, and telephone, anywhere you are, all the time."

"Downloading the latest music from your favorite band, while reading an e-mail from a friend who has just relocated overseas, all while cutting across the usual rush hour traffic of Edsa onboard the MRT or checking out the headlines in major broadsheets as you give instructions to the staff in the office while the cab you are in snakes its way through the crazy streets of downtown Manila. This is life with absolute mobility and connectivity," he describes.

To Carlo and to many of his fellow mobile computing advocates, mobile computing means "increasing productivity. He explained: "Because of advances in computer and Internet technology, everything happens in a blink of an eye, and a job that used to take a day or two to accomplish in the past now takes but a couple of minutes. That's productivity multiplied tenfold."

But mobile computing is not all about work. Carlo stresses, "This includes access to music, to interesting sites, to people you care about, and soon even to cable television. With the ability to do two or three things simultaneously you will undoubtedly have a few extra minutes or hours for yourself, which you can spend in whatever manner you choose to."

The top-of-the-line mobile computing device can cost as much as a brand new laptop computer. And to most people in the Philippines, this is an expense that they are not willing to take.

"That is absolutely right. But you can look at it as an expense or you can look at it as an investment in productivity and in your future. The amount you would spend on a mobile computing device is far less than the income you stand to earn when you get that promotion or when you exceed your quota."

"The cost of your mobile computing device is almost close to the amount you would need for a laptop, a mobile phone, a camera, an mp3 player, and an electronic organizer.

"Having had the chance to look at a variety of available models in the market, I look at the functions and special features in the device. Right now, I have a Dopod 818 pro. Its cool design, user-friendly controls, great camera function, and high-speed operating system makes it really one of the more value-for-money phones out in the market today. You may not be able to get a fuller view of the screen like the one that Dopod 900 offers, but with the 818 pro you get a TFT 2.8 inch screen that's good enough.

"I also have a Dopod 838 with its QWERTY keyboard that slides out from beneath the screen. The Dopod 838 also has a handy connection button at the top left side of the phone which allows easy control of the phone's WI-FI, Active sync, volume, and Bluetooth features.

"Both phones run on Windows Mobile 5.0. It is important to have the hardware but it is equally important to have the top-of-the-line software that supports it."

"Do not be intimidated with modern technology. They are ordained precisely to make our lives easier and for us to live life more fully. Admittedly there will be new models in the future, and as technology evolves, the gadgets we have now will be obsolete in a few years, so choose wisely and go for the device that can allow you to live a lifestyle that's truly balanced and productive."

Corporate governance

Corporate Securities Info

Raul Palabrica

UNTIL REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8799, or the Securities Regulation Code (SRC), was enacted into law in 2000, corporate governance was confined to the classrooms of business schools.

The regulatory agencies gave the management of private companies as much leeway as possible in running their affairs. The government invoked its oversight authority only if the board room action was characterized by bad faith or fraud.

The SRC was the legislature's reaction to the corporate scandals that hit the country in the latter part of the '90s, the most notable of which was the stock manipulation at BW Resources Corporation.

Unlike the Corporation Code which basically left it to the stockholders to monitor the activities of its directors and officers, the SRC has an activist slant.

It holds the management staff of corporations to high standards of integrity and fidelity in the performance of their duties and responsibilities.

Stiff financial and penal sanctions faced those who may be found to have fallen short of those expectations.

Governance

Among others, the SRC requires certain companies to elect independent directors, appoint compliance officers and submit financial reports signed by accountants accredited by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Through SEC Memorandum Circular No. 2, series of 2002, corporate governance became an integral part of the local business sector.

The SEC defines corporate governance as "a system whereby shareholders, creditors and other stakeholders of a corporation ensure that management enhances the value of the corporation as it competes in an increasingly global market place."

In the same circular, the SEC promulgated a Code of Corporate Governance that should be observed by the following corporations:

1. Those whose securities are registered with the SEC or listed in the stock exchange;

2. Grantees of permits, licenses or secondary franchises from the SEC, and

3. Branches or subsidiaries of foreign corporations operating in the Philippines whose securities are registered or listed.

The SEC may, depending on future developments, expand the coverage of the Code to other companies.

Responsibility

The focus of attention of the Code is the board of directors. It holds its members, acting as a body, responsible for the good governance of the corporation.

This burden is consistent with the authority granted by law to the board to exercise all corporate powers, conduct all business, and control or hold the properties of a corporation.

At the same time, however, the Code imposes on the directors certain duties and responsibilities in their individual capacity.

The position of director can no longer be treated like a sinecure job of yore when directors answered the roll call, dozed off during the meeting, said "Amen" to management's wishes and picked up their per diem on the way out.

This time, under the Code, the director has to actively participate in the board's discussions on the policies and activities of the corporation.

Additionally, the election of an independent director is made mandatory for companies that sell securities or investments that promise their buyers material benefits in the future.

An independent director is a person who does not have any ties with the corporation or its subsidiaries and affiliates that may, directly or indirectly, interfere in the exercise of his judgment in board room deliberations.

Audit system

To further strengthen the corporate governance process, the Code requires corporations to put in place within their organization an audit system that would ensure the preparation of accurate financial reports.

The practice of engaging the services of the same group of external auditors year after year was stopped.

The Code calls for the rotation of the external auditor or the partner assigned to the corporation every five years or earlier.

This procedure aims to prevent the development of a "sweetheart" relationship between the company and the external auditor from years of close association that may influence the latter's performance of its audit functions.

The stockholders have not been left out of the corporate governance loop. After all, they are the real owners of the corporation.

The Code is emphatic about the duty of the board to respect and protect their rights, especially if they belong to the minority.

They are entitled to timely and accurate information about significant events in the corporation. While it is true that the rule of the majority should be observed, this does not constitute a license for management to ignore the legitimate demands of small stockholders.

In succeeding articles of this column, we shall discuss the salient features of the Code.

(For feedback, please write to <rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph>.)

Inside the Cordillera's mine tunnels

From page B2-1

SIESTA INN. Lepanto miners' dressing room and resting area

Spain during the "Battle of Lepanto" that they called the area "Lepanto."

The Americans started LCMC's operations in 1936. During World War II, the Japanese took charge of the copper operation for their war materiel needs.

LCMC returned to normal operations in 1947.

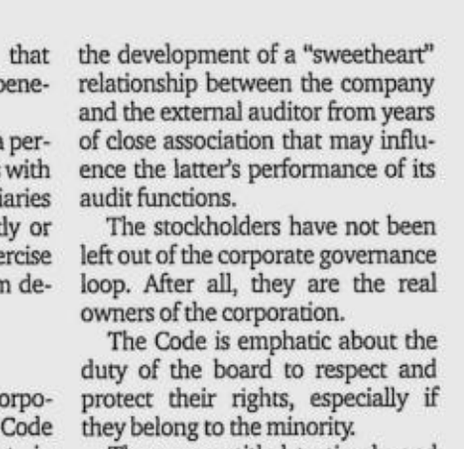
This September, LCMC will return to copper operations because of higher world prices for copper. It abandoned copper mining in 2001 because of the price of copper then dropped.

Felizardo Gacad, chief of the mining and environment safety division of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau in the Cordillera, said Mankayan, despite its long mining history, is still viable.

Gacad says four of the nine applications for mineral production sharing agreements (MPSA) approved for the Cordillera are located in Mankayan.

These are LCMC's two claims for commercial gold and copper operation and exploration totaling 2,777 hectares; exploration of Itogon-Suyoc Resources amounting to 1,728 hectares; and the exploration agreement of Crescent Mining and Development Corp. amounting to 534 hectares.

Other approved MPSA in the Cordillera include two claims for exploration of Philex Mining Corp. in Tuba and Itogon towns in Benguet totaling 7,886 hectares; two exploration agreements of Jabel Corp. in Baay-Licuan, Abra, totaling 1,053 hectares; and the exploration for limestone and silica of Abra Mining and Industrial Corp. in Bucay, Abra.



MINER waits to go down the shaft as ground level of Nayac Tunnel.

Gold mining is not as easy as one would see in the movies.

LCMC, for example, had average cash cost for gold production of only $135 per ounce from 1998 to 2003, making it one of the lowest cost producers in the world. It makes about 150,000 ounces of fine gold per annum.

Recent labor problems also hampered its production and operations.

DOA4: Faster. . .

From page B2-4

with distinctive set ups. Some stages are multi-layered, meaning fighters can be knocked off a craggy cliff, a glass wall or a flight of stairs to fall into the next stage. Likewise, a few stages are just flat but have fences or guardrails that can be used for extra damage. There are even stages wherein damage to an opponent is caused not by the other fighter but by moving objects. For instance, in the Safari stage, a cheetah suddenly appears out of nowhere and hits any of the players in its path for extra damage. Like so, the Las Vegas stage is fought on a two-way street; if neither fighter isn't careful he or she could be hit or run over by passing cars that would either try to swerve away from the fight or just continue driving. In both cases, a good player can utilize these environmental damages as they follow up with juggle attacks or ground cheap shots while the enemy fighter is lying on the floor or is bouncing up and down the ground.

Anyone who has played DOA3 and DOA Ultimate for the original Xbox will find it easy to learn the new fighting styles of their favorite characters. The same moves and strategies still apply and each character owns a long list of combinations of punches, kicks and throws. But there are lots of new moves that players can utilize, some of which may not necessarily be straight combos. New techniques include single attacks that launch your enemy up in the air where you can do intense juggling damages. This is similar to the same strategy applied in the Tekken series but in DOA4—each character uses different combinations of juggles and expert players can even create their own spectacular juggles depending on what they think looks good or if the damage is greater.

Throws are amazing to look at and the camera moves in slightly closer on both characters to show just how the throw move actually looks like. Each character has at least six types of throws that can be used along with combos and juggles. Throwing an enemy can also be done using walls and staircases and sometimes could follow one throw after another. It all depends on how each character is handled and what strategies are being used.

Counterattacking is an essential part of DOA4. While blocking attacks, a player may find an opening and can let out a counterattack. As the word implies, counterattacks are middle or low punches and kicks that will throw an enemy off-balance so that the defending player can turn the tables against the other. But this means having to know each character's inherent techniques to better predict where the next punch or kick would land.

Another version of counterattack is the counter-throw that is, for the most part, the game's ultimate equalizer. In the hands of an expert, any character can win a game without throwing a single punch or kick and just by countering. This means predicting the other enemy's punch or kick and pressing the block and back buttons at the right moment. Once countered, an enemy will either be thrown down the ground, left dazed or thrown up the air for a follow-up attack. And the damage from counter-throws are surprisingly large even compared to regular throw moves. For example, Bass the American wrestler's counters take nearly a third of an enemy's life meter. If combined with a set of juggling punches, kicks and a follow up throw, Bass can literally finish the enemy without him touching the ground. But countering in DOA4 has been made slightly more difficult to execute so timing should be perfect. A missed counter would leave your player open for counterattacks.

Despite having a good fanbase, DOA4 still provides a sparring mode wherein new players can learn the basic to intermediate techniques while veteran players can hone new tricks. In addition, the enemy's artificial intelligence level can be set according to difficulty. It is here in the sparring mode where you'll have to learn how to fight a particular enemy without actually dying and match resetting. Also, the sparring mode has a health bar point system that lets skilled players find the right attack combinations that will deplete the enemy's life bar.

If there's an available DSL connection (which should have a bandwidth of at least 2 Mbps), DOA4 players can go play Xbox Live with other DOA4 players and try to measure themselves up against players worldwide. The DOA4 Online has a ranking system depending on how many wins or losses is collected while playing against enemies. Fighting against experts means having to learn from the mistakes you make while playing the game and Xbox Live lets you gauge your level against others.

DOA4 is one of the few games that deserve a space in an Xbox 360 game library with smooth visuals, easy to pick up action and a good roster of characters to choose from. Other 3D fighting games have a target market but DOA4 crosses these niche markets to give each type of player a chance to start playing the game immediately and learn new tricks that can be applied while fighting better players. It may sound like a cliché, but DOA4 has something for everyone.

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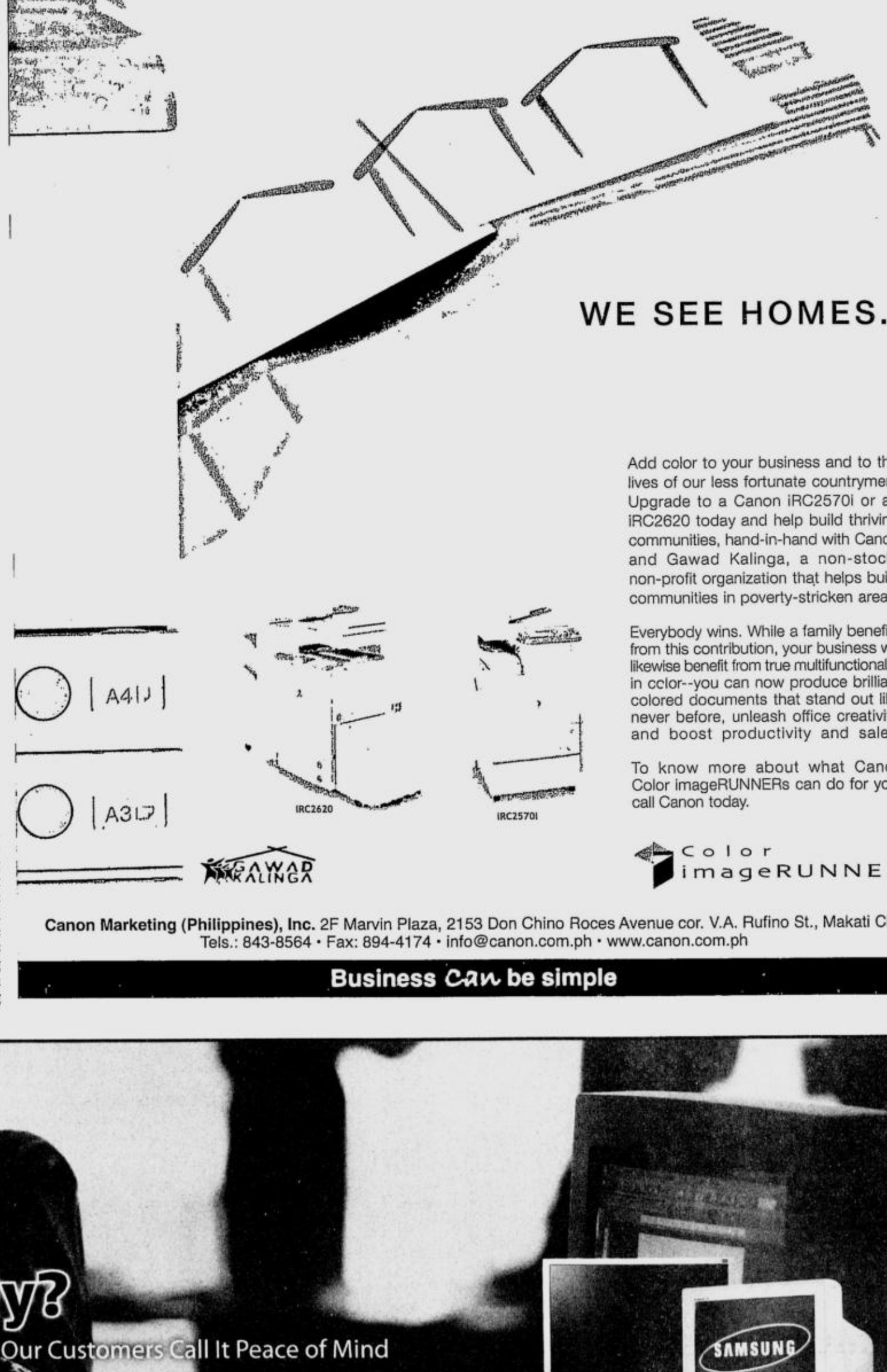

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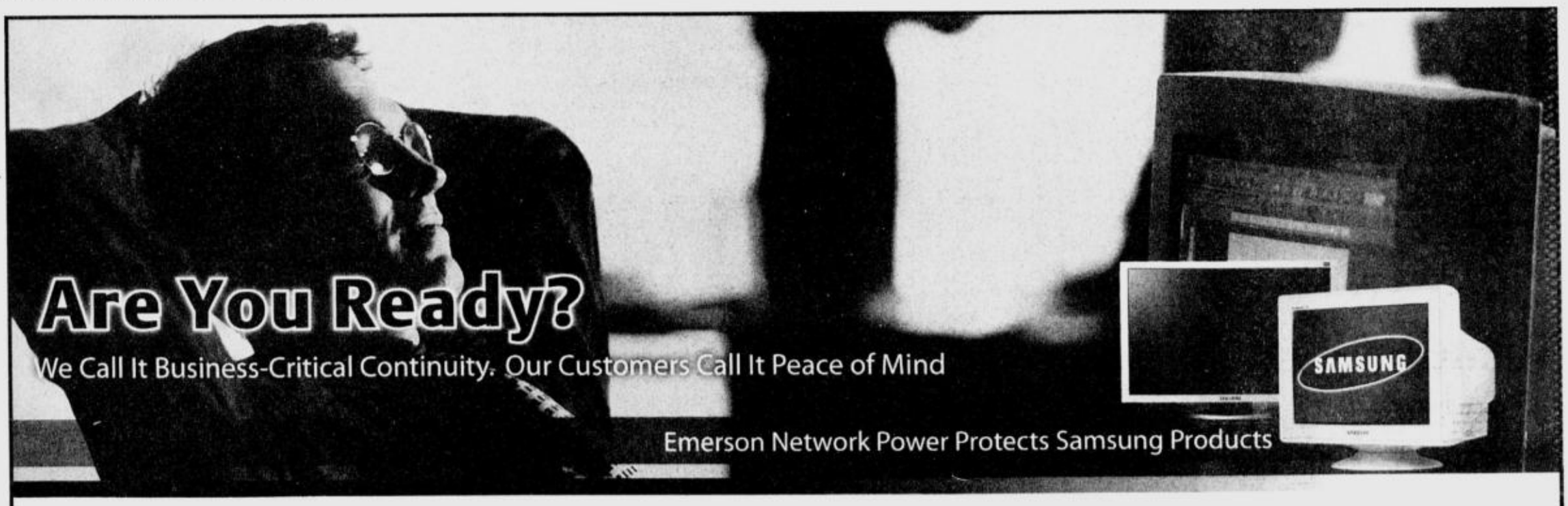

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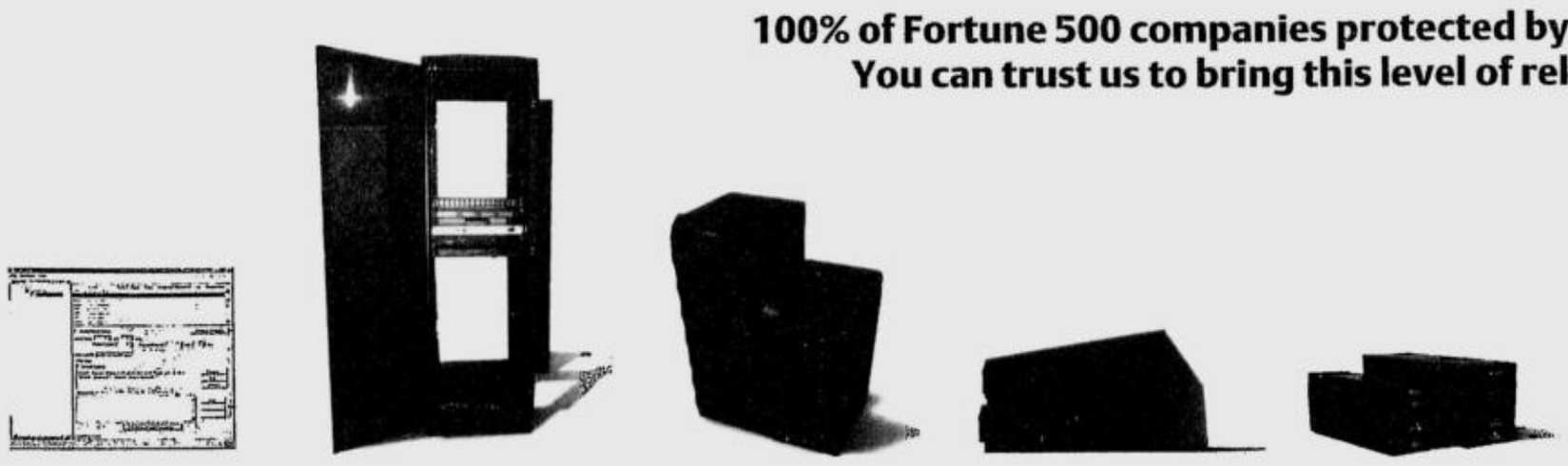

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THE OLD characters of DOA are back in fighting form and some new ones have been added to DOA4.

DOA4: Faster, sexier, more powerful than ever

Alexander Villafania
INQ7.NET

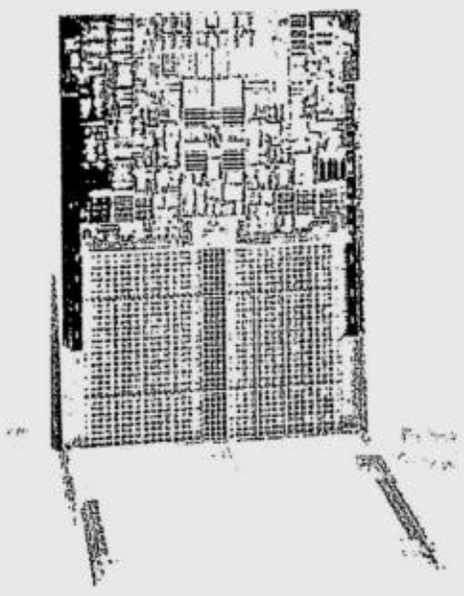
THE FOURTH INSTALLment of the Dead or Alive fighting game series for the Xbox 360 has improved much since Dead or Alive 3 for the original Xbox, and this one is already far removed from the first arcade version of Dead or Alive. Like in previous DOA games, DOA4 again sets the bar in both graphics and gameplay with a few other new features not seen in previous incarnations of the game.

Players, both newbies and veterans, will notice how this fighting game has become faster and the commands are more complicated. Admittedly, DOA4 is a game that anyone can just pick up and play. It is a button-masher's dream fighting game because any press of the four action buttons (block, kick, punch and throw) could still execute nasty combination attacks, counters and throws at random. However, an intermediate player with deeper understanding of each character's fight styles will lay waste to even the most unpredictable newbie player.

There are 20 playable characters in the game, four of whom are new: Mariposa, the capoeira expert, Elliot the young British Keiiken master, Kokoro, the geisha Baji Quan player, and a "visitor" Nicole, who is a female version of Halo's Master Chief. The regulars are still there: the ninjas Ayane, Hayate, Hayabusa and Kasumi, drunken master Brad Wong, Elliot's master Gen Fu, soldiers Bayman and Leon, father-and-daughter wrestling tag team Tina and Bass, Bruce Lee wannabe Jann Lee, rich heiress Helena, Tai-chi student Lei Fang, sexy assassin Christie, karate kid Hitomi, and Muay Thai fighter Zack.

The beautifully created environments are the first thing one would notice about DOA4; there are about a dozen stages each

DOA4/ B2-3



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Introducing the Intel® Core™2 Duo:

Multitask with Reckless Abandon

The Digital Revolution

A fundamental change is happening with entertainment - it's going digital. Traditional photography is a relic of the past, with digital cameras today the norm, movies and music can be accessed and downloaded over broadband internet. There is no denying that the digital revolution is here and now.

Compared to the productivity and work tools of yesterday, consumers are now demanding more processing power as they run more and more demanding entertainment and communications applications on their PCs. Much of this is down to the demands placed on the processors in the PCs. It is usual for consumers to be simultaneously checking emails, chatting on an instant messenger and looking up the sporting results over the Internet, all while listening to music stored on the computer. At the same time, the computer could be downloading a video to be watched later and running background applications such as Internet security and firewalls. This level of multi-tasking requires powerful top end processor power. The PC has grown from a productivity tool into a media, information and entertainment portal. This has led to a move of the technology from the study into the living room.

The increasing adoption of such applications has been driven not purely by the affordability of such technology, but consumers' ability to experience entertainment "on their own terms". Consumers are looking for a more convenient solution to obtaining, storing and sharing digital music, movies, photos and more. What they want is convenient and easy access to a wide range of digital content, regardless of the source, across various devices and the ability to enjoy it at anytime, anywhere throughout the home where they can sit back and relax or even on mobile devices while on the go.

This new usage model is set to take off to a even higher level with the launch of Intel's second generation dual core processors, the Intel® Core™2 Duo for consumer desktop PCs. This is a huge leap forward in processor design delivering a performance leap not seen since the launch of the original Pentium chip some ten years ago.

The Intel Core 2 Duo processor family consists of five desktop processors tailored for business, home, workstation and enthusiast users, such as high-end gamers, and five processors for the mobile lifestyle. Containing 291 million transistors, these Intel Core 2 Duo dual core processors are designed to provide energy efficient performance yet run demanding multiple applications faster, enabling users to improve tasks such as viewing and playing high-definition video more smoothly, protecting the PC and its assets during e-commerce transactions, and provide longer battery life with sleeker and lighter notebooks.

The new processors provide as much as a 40% increase in performance and are 40 percent more energy efficient versus the best Intel® Pentium® processor. Initial PCs are available today, with more desktop and laptops arriving throughout August.

For consumers, the added performance power and energy efficiency of the Intel Core 2 Duo processor not only means that they can do even more with their entertainment, it means lower-power consumption and quieter systems for the home. With the power of dual cores, the processors can manage numerous tasks faster. They also can operate more smoothly when multiple applications are running, such as writing emails while downloading music or videos and conducting a virus scan in the background.

With the Intel Core 2 Duo processor, gamers can also look forward to a new level of realism in dynamic gaming, whether challenging yourself or competing with other online gamers. The ability to manage high definition graphics smoothly will deliver a whole new level to the gaming experience.

These new Core2 Duo processors are simply the best processors in the world. Whether in performance power or energy efficiency, the new generation of Intel Core 2 Duo processors will give consumers control and simplicity for all their digital entertainment anytime, anywhere, and anyway they want it.

Why are Intel Core 2 Duo processors the world's best processors? Please visit www.intel.com/core2duo

ADVT

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

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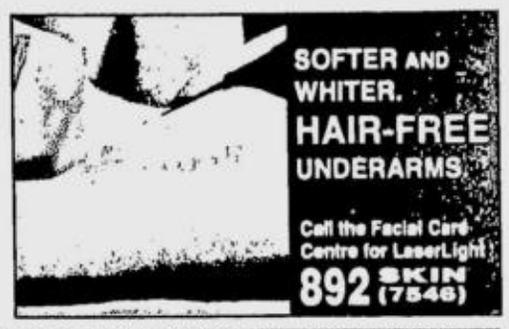
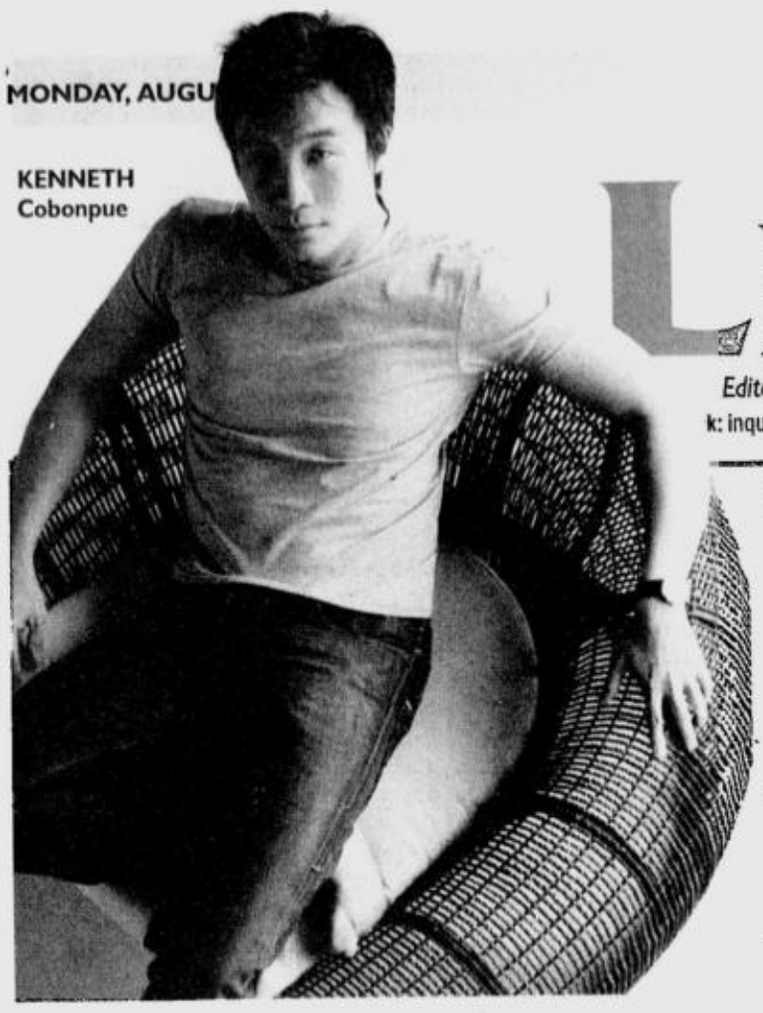
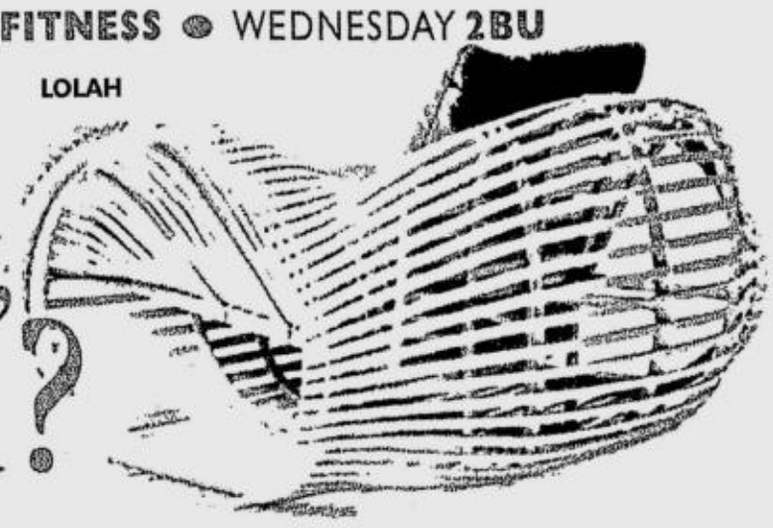




What's the frequency, Kenneth?



Cobonpue's triumph in the recent Design for Asia Awards has been played up, albeit condescendingly, by the international press. 'Low-tech rattan chair shares design award with Sony, Nokia and Samsung,' goes one headline

By Dexter R. Matilla
Contributor

KENNETH COBONPUE HAS always generated global buzz for his designs. His designs and awards have landed him appearances on European television and in editorial space in Newsweek, International Herald Tribune, Time, Wallpaper.

Lately the buzz or frequency he generates has been extreme, especially after he won top honors in the Design for Asia Awards, the region's most prestigious award-giving body, and Hollywood actor Brad Pitt's disclosure that he buys Cobonpue designs.

"Brad has actually been getting furniture from me for the past three years," Cobonpue said. "I just never played it up because, to me, he is a client just like any other. The first pieces he got were standard off-the-factory-floor stuff. The later ones, in true Hollywood fashion, were of custom sizes and colors. Brad is known for his exquisite taste in furniture and architecture. In fact, he is planning to take time off soon from moviemaking to study architecture."

Pitt will apparently get to appreciate more of Cobonpue's works as Warner Brothers executives have asked the designer to produce a casino set for "Ocean's 13," the Brad Pitt-George Clooney-Matt Damon movie scheduled for release next year.

"I cannot disclose set details but Warner Brothers contacted my partner in the USA about a few pieces of furniture," Cobonpue said. "We sent the set designers a catalog and they were bowled over. They ordered stuff to fill up an entire lounge for the set design, telling us that they have never ordered so much furniture from one company before."

Movement 8

With Movement 8, an alliance of eight award-winning Filipino designers and manufacturers, Cobonpue shows new work every year in design shows from Paris to Shanghai. Having achieved so much never deterred him to pay homage to his roots. Following the example of his mentors, Cobonpue modestly shares his knowledge and skills with others who are interested in making a difference through design.

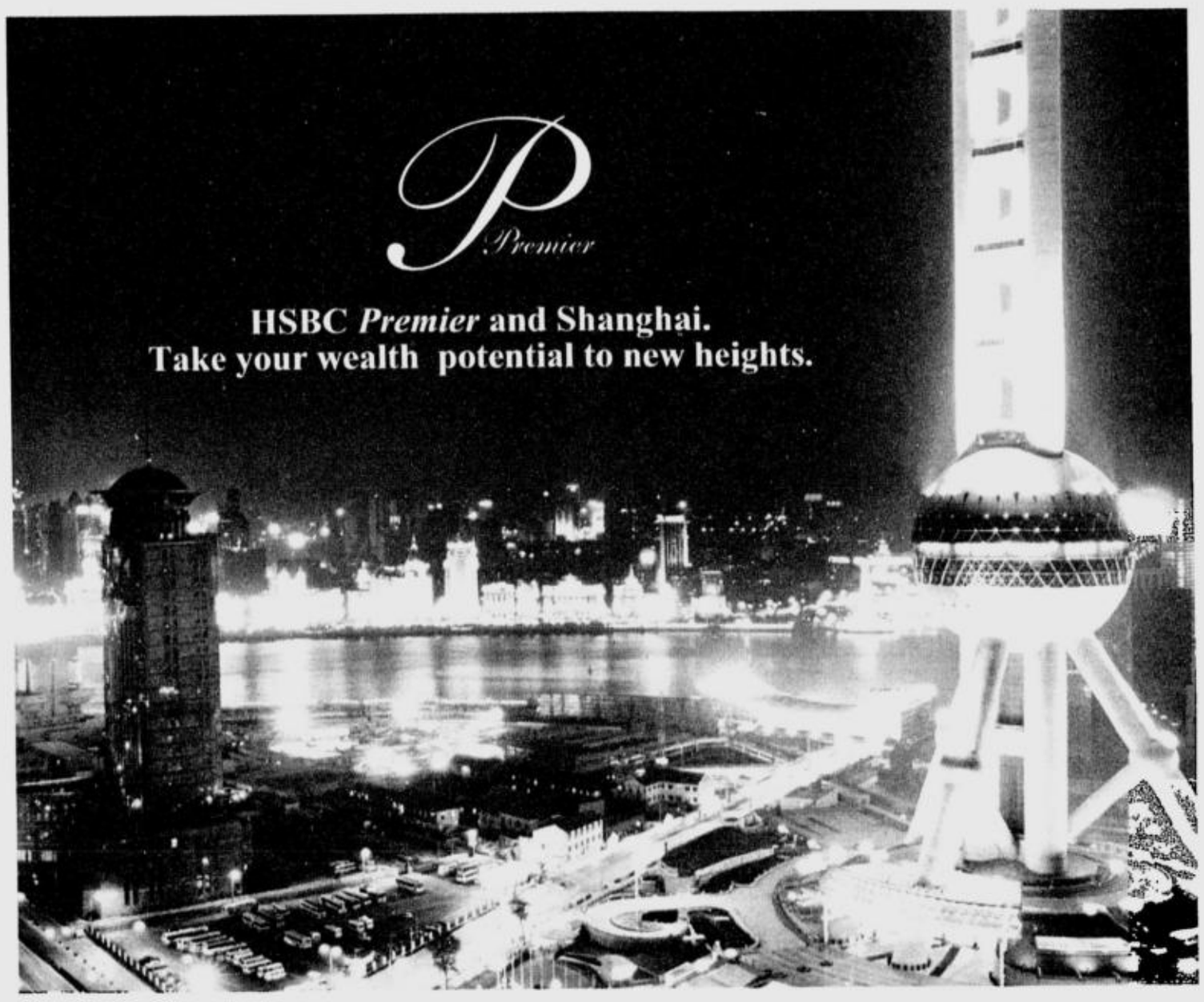
Growing up in a wooden Italian house in Cebu, Cobonpue would "wake up to the sound of nails and the songs of carpenters working" with his mother, Betty, making furniture in the backyard.

"She taught me the value of form and beauty," Cobonpue said. "She knew early on that design was the key to making a difference."

Cobonpue said he had no idea back then what being a designer meant.

"In high school, I designed everything from basketball uniforms to party invitations. I knew early on that I had an eye for design, but never dreamt where it would take me. I knew how to use design to get things I wanted. I was never good at sports when I was a kid. But I more than made up for that through music and design to get the girls."

Cobonpue tried to banish the thought of becoming a designer at first. He had thought of becoming a writer, a sculptor, and, at one point, even a fashion designer. But he eventually chose to take up Industrial Design at Pratt Institute in New York.



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VISUAL ARTS

Herzon de la Rosa at Y

Herzon de la Rosa will showcase his latest artworks in his 34th one-man exhibit "Harvest Festival," which opens Aug. 26, 5:30 p.m., at Galerie Y, 4/L, Bldg. A., SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Guests of honor are Beth Periquet, Marilyn Ramos, Chito Santos and Janet Santos. The exhibit runs until Sept. 5. Call 6342704 or e-mail sxherzonf3@yahoo.com.

Paper arts at Stairway

Stairway Gallery (Imacron Media Center, 115 Kamuning Rd., QC) is holding "Book Arts VII." Participating artists include Clifford Espinosa, Don Salubayba, Bajaghari de Guzman, Louie Stuart, Jason Moss, Roger "Rishab" Tibon, Del Tolentino Jr., Loreta Rafisura, Junyee, Bencab, Pandy Aviado, Asao Shimura, Peter Thomas, Tony Twigg, Winsome Jobling, Penny Velasco, Loreto Apilado, Ral Arogante and Tes Pasola. Call 9201375.

Tamondong at Frio Mixx

Christian Tamondong presents his recent series of paintings on paper in "Indistinct Pleasures," until Aug. 31, at the Frio Mixx Art Space, 5/L, Youth Zone, Shangri-La Mall. The exhibit presents a series of 12 paintings in oil and paint sticks on canvas. Each work exudes innocence and spontaneity. Call 6327921 or 0917-8217224.

"INDISTINCT Pleasures"

Ballo, Yan-Santos, Hilario at Boston

"OUROBOROS," by Jojo Ballo

Jojo Ballo, Pamela Yan-Santos and Riel Hilario present simultaneous exhibits at Boston Gallery until Sept. 7. Ballo presents a series of abstract canvases and poetry in "Poems and Mandalas" at the Upper Gallery. Yan-Santos presents her recent canvas in "Going Places" at the Alcove. Hilario presents "Homebound Sketches," a collection of drawings on shaped canvases at the Lower Gallery. Boston Gallery is at 72 Boston St. cor Lantana St., Cubao, QC. Call 7229205.

BY RIEL Hilario

Gabuco, Zamora at CCP

"IN IT We Trust," by Carlo Gabuco

Carlo Gabuco and Christopher Zamora's "2nd Hand Smoke" is ongoing at the Pasilyo Vicente Manansala of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Both from the Philippine Women's University Fine Arts school, Gabuco and Zamora portray community, family, religion, education and the media as driving forces of the cultural wheel. The exhibit runs until Sept. 24. Call 8323702.

Inaugural show of Galerie 7

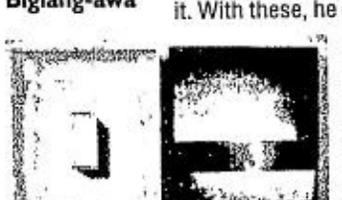
BY ALVIN Villaruel

Galerie 7 (46 Calumpit Street, Veterans Village, Project 7, QC) features Pablo Biglang-awa, Jonathan Olazo, Alvin Villaruel and Reg Yuson. Call 3713751 or 3746410.

BY PABLO Biglang-awa

Da Cruz at Ayala

Luis Da Cruz, a renowned interior designer based in New York presents "Contra-Point," until Aug. 25 at MuseumSpace, 2/F, Ayala Museum. The artist uses organic materials such as earth, fire, wood and metal, and combine them with a fifth element—spirit. With these, he creates a double helix of form and function. Call 7577117 to 21 loc. 31.



BY NONA Garcia

Garcia at Finale

On view at the Finale Art File (4/F, LaO Center, Pasay Road cor. Makati Ave., Makati City) is Nona Garcia's "Recent Works." In a suite of works, the artist presents small, unmarked boxes positioned in the center of the canvas. Juxtaposed with the canvases are X-ray images shining through light boxes, revealing their hidden contents—lock, bracelet, square of palpitating light—arguing the limits of sight and surface and affirming the dynamism of even the most inert object. Exhibit runs until Aug. 29. Call 8132310 or 8125034.

'Impressive Japan' by Baldemor

To mark the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Japan, the exhibition "Kaakit-akit na Japan (Impressive Japan)," by Manuel D. Baldemor, will open today at the ArtSpace of Glorietta 4, 3/L, Ayala Center. The show, organized by the Embassy of Japan, Makati City Hall and Galerie Y, runs until Aug. 31.

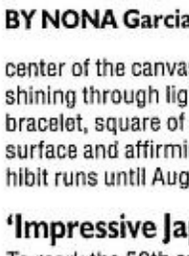
Syjuco at One Workshop

JEWELRY by Paul Syjuco

Paul Syjuco presents "Found Objets," a collection of concept jewels, until Aug. 31 at One Workshop Gallery, G/F, 2241 La Fuerza Plaza II, Don Chino Roces Ave. cor. Sablo St., Makati. Call 8105094 or 8192074.

Nemiranda at Crucible

Nemi Miranda Jr. opens an exhibit at Crucible Gallery, 4/F, SM Megamall, Aug. 22-Sept. 3. Nemiranda will showcase his latest works of nude paintings, Mother and Child series, and everyday scenes of common people like farmers and fishermen. The exhibit highlights Nemiranda's mastery of the human anatomy in varied motion and emotions and his school of thought, known as "Imaginative Figurism," which he says is a philosophy that art should go beyond the actual copying of art subject. Call 6356061.



"I'M Not Blind," by Lynyrd Paras

Group exhibit at Blanc

"Mute," a group show by four young artists, Don Dalmacio, Lynyrd Paras, Brenda Praico and Carlo Saavedra, opens on Aug. 23, at Blanc Art Space, 2E Crown Tower, 107 H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati. The exhibit will run until Sept. 13. Call 7520032 or 09209276436.

Revisiting Filipinas Heritage Library

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

NIELSON AIRPORT WAS THE Philippines' first modern commercial international airport. It was inaugurated on July 17, 1937, and celebrates its 70th anniversary next year.

The old airport is now the home of Filipinas Heritage Library, now in its 10th year offering traditional library services and being a one-stop research center on Filipino national-heritage information.

Not only has Filipinas Heritage Library contributed to library development; it has also contributed to raising the community's awareness of and interest in studying and preserving the country's heritage.

By increasing creative interaction, the restored Nielson Tower has also become a source of information, inspiration and national pride, proof that heritage buildings can, indeed, be recycled for contemporary uses.

In the late 1930s, before the days of heavy equipment, a thousand-man construction team built the airport's two principal runways—now Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas—in the heart of central Makati.

Between the two runways was the airport control center and passenger station, then known as Nielson Tower, among the first airports in Asia.

Only the fortunate few air passengers of the day could view the airplane-shaped building from above. The earth-bound public saw an elegant structure designed in the Art Deco style of the period.

The low-slung building with a control tower at its center captured the romance of air travel, a popular motif of the Art Deco age. From the airport tower, now reused as a function room, was a sweeping view of the runway and of rural 1930s Makati fields.

Although Nielson Tower now houses Filipinas Heritage Library, the ground floor and control tower of the building retain their original 1930s layout.

In 2001, Unesco recognized the library's restoration efforts by including Nielson Tower among the prestigious annual Unesco Asia-Pacific Cultural Heritage Awardees for outstanding conservation and architectural re-use.

Subsequent Philippine Unesco Asia-Pacific Cultural Heritage awardees were the Gota de Leche building in 2003 and the Far Eastern University campus in 2005.

Impressive

The Unesco citation for Nielson Tower reads: "The impressive conversion of one of Asia's earliest airports into a heritage library represents a major achievement in preserving an important era of Manila's history.

"Historical events and architecture are exemplified in the legacy of the structure and in the excellent choice to continue its livelihood as an educational facility.

"In a time of rapid urban development and expansion, the Nielson Tower is an excellent model for others to follow on how to appropriately readapt historic structures in the community."

Just as the historic Nielson Tower connected the Philippines to the world in the 1930s, Filipinas Heritage Library now links the country globally with its information highway.

The Unesco document states that restoration of the structure painstakingly began when project managers using old photos established the original appearance of the building. Apart from some damage received during the Second World War, it was clear the tower's structure and appearance had remained virtually unchanged since the 1930s.

Minimal work was required in the exterior. The roof, walls and original window frames were refurbished with a fresh coat of paint, window-glass panels replaced, and the Manila International Air Terminal signage on the rear of the building restored.

The only major exterior modification was the removal of the 1970s-era canvas canopy at the front entrance, replaced with a permanent circular canopy in a new design that complements the building's architectural style.

While the layout of most rooms in the building was left unchanged and original features such as hardwood doors retained, some major alterations were made to the interior.

The central staircase, which provided access to the basement and the tower, had to be replaced to meet safety standards. A new spiral staircase was installed at the back of the building and an elevator was fitted in to allow access by the handicapped.

In order to meet the

IN ITS c
Filipinas
Nielson
Alcove,
photogr

NO MATTER that the Nielson Tower became the Ayala Police Headquarters in the building's original function as an airport was obvious due to its central towe

'Art palengke' at Art Petron

By Lito B. Zulueta

ON THE 34TH FLOOR OF PETRON Bldg. on Gil Puyat Ave. in Makati on Aug. 14, something like an art market was taking place. On the walls and floors of the entire floor were spread paintings in oil, acrylic or watercolor; if one wasn't careful, one could step on one.

But for an art market, there was no brisk trading; the atmosphere in the hall was quiet, even meditative.

Blame it on the art judges who scrutinized each work with surgical precision. This was no ordinary art exhibit; this was the judges' day of Art Petron, the 6th National Student Art Competition.

It helped that the brooding, nearly scholarly atmosphere in the halls was balanced by the art entries themselves, which tried to render in lines and colors the contest theme, "Alay sa Sining Pinoy." The works were celebratory, festive, even fun.

For National Artist Napoleon Abueva, chair of the board of judges, "what I look for can be summed up in just one phrase—'visual impact.'"

He said the lines, colors and figures in a painting must provide a "cumulative impact" that would separate the work from others.

"I am not looking necessarily for 'Filipino' flavor," Abueva said. "I am looking for something fresh perhaps, especially since this is a contest for young artists. I expect to see new techniques from vibrant artists."

Another judge, newly proclaimed National Artist Bencab, agreed. "I look for visual impact—strong image and good rendering," he said.

It helps that there's a theme in which to guide the judges. "Sometimes the work is good but does not follow the theme," he said. "Of course, what's worse is if it follows the theme but it's a bad painting."

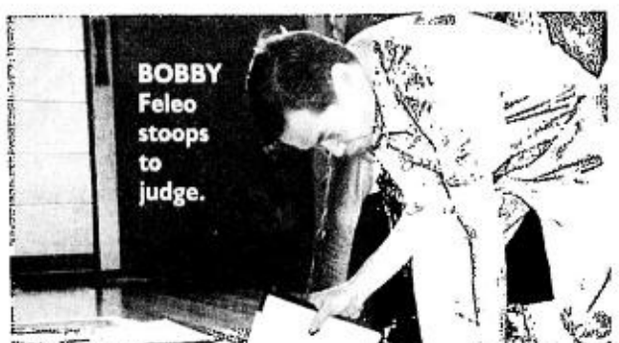
He said the art of the young is "usually strong representationally," although there's a "digital factor" that seems to seep into the more recent works. In some instances, he said, the figures show influences of Japanese animé.

Nevertheless, the theme of the contest allows, Bencab said, for the participants to show off the strongest suit of Filipino artists—their figural verve and almost folksy art sense.

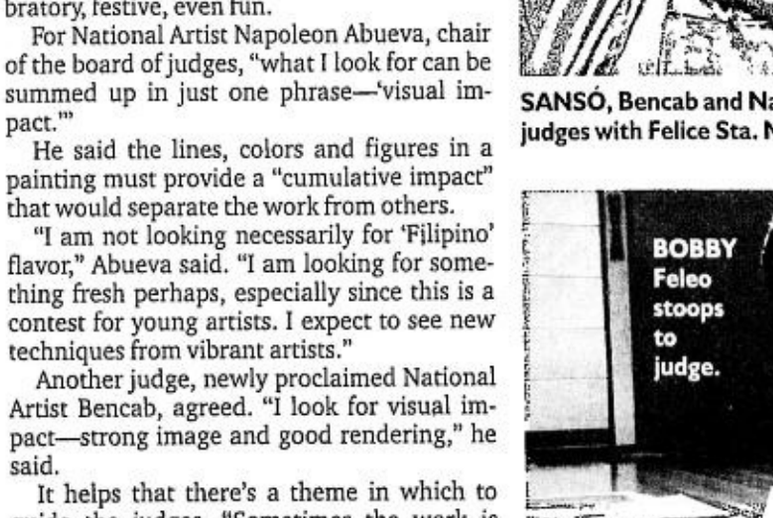
For Bencab, judging in Petron relived the time when, just an elementary student, he won a poster contest on human rights; and, much later, as a student of Fine Arts, he won second prize for a gouache work in the Shell contest.

He said contests like Petron's afford young artists "big opportunities." "The prizes are good," he said. "And you would have the opportunity to be published in the catalogue, in calendars and in postcards. I envy aspiring artists today because they

SANSÓ, Bencab and Napoleon Abueva in animated discussion over artistic merits of entries. The three judges with Felice Sta. Maria (overhead) view the works spread out on the floor.



Abueva, Bencab and Sansó are just three of the many reasons why results of the 6th national contest are eagerly anticipated



PETRON officials led by chair Nick Alcantara and president and CEO Khalid Al-Faddagh also take part in judging.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

urrent incarnation as Heritage Library, Tower is now The Manila's leading aphy gallery.

space requirements of a library the building had to be expanded. Since maintaining the original external appearance of the building was essential, enlargement was implemented underground in the basement area. Effects on the foundations were minimized by limiting the direction of the expansion toward the rear of the building.

Since its restoration, the building has also become a popular venue for community activities such as book launches, lectures, conferences, poetry readings, concerts and social functions, including weddings.

Filipinas Heritage Library brings Philippine history, literature and culture to the rest of the world through information technology. The library was opened to the public on Aug. 23, 1996.

An exhibit showcasing the transformation of the Nielson Tower has been mounted at the Alcove Photo Gallery of the library.

1949 1949

Feedback is welcome at pride.place@gmail.com

What's the frequency, Kenneth?

From page C1

"You could actually go to school to become an inventor, thinker, engineer and artist all in one," Cobonpue explained. "It had to be for me."

He added: "I remember sitting nights on my balcony as a student in New York looking at the skyline. I pictured the millions of tiny, lighted windows as people. I told myself that if I were to become a designer, I would have to make a difference in this world. And I wouldn't stop until that window of mine becomes bolder and brighter than the rest."

Awards

And this would be his driving force as he amassed an impressive lineup of awards including a Presidential Citation for embodying ideals of Asian Design given by President Macapagal-Arroyo; a Design Excellence Award during the 9th Annual IIDA/Hospitality Design Product Competition; and one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines in 2003.

One of the more prestigious honors he got was the Design for Asia Award. In a field of over 500 entries from more than 22 countries and regions, 12 were selected. His entry, the Lolah chair, was judged by a group of international designers and CEOs.

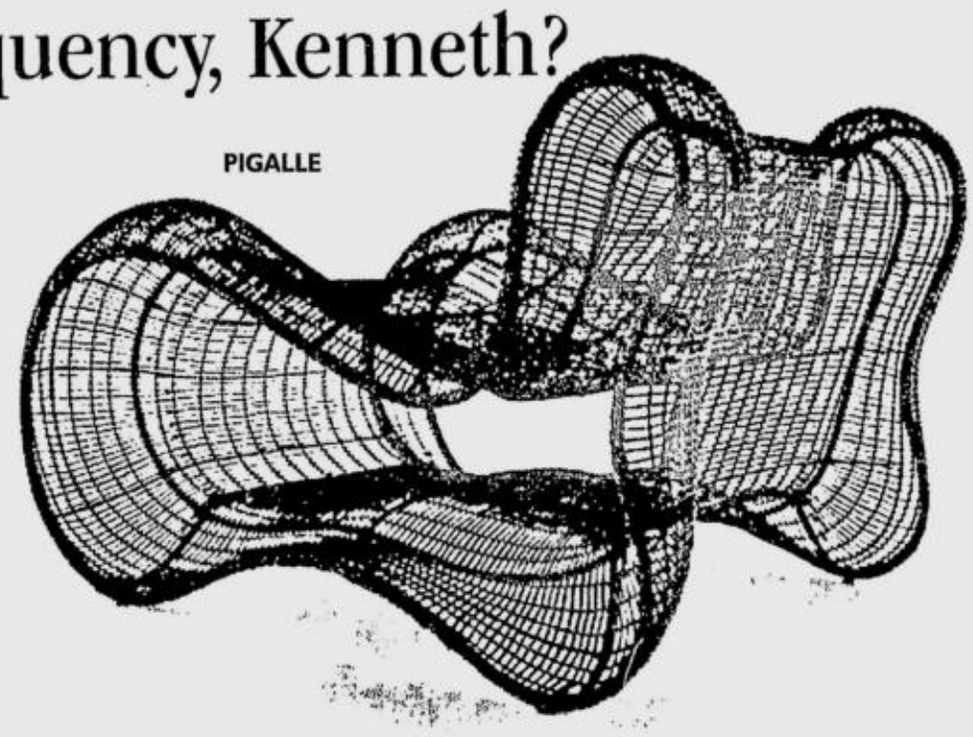
The press played up Cobonpue's victory with this headline: "Low-tech rattan chair shares design award with Sony, Nokia and Samsung."

"It took me a while to realize the absurdity of the situation... a handmade rattan chair sharing an award with a technologically advanced highly polished handphone," Cobonpue said.

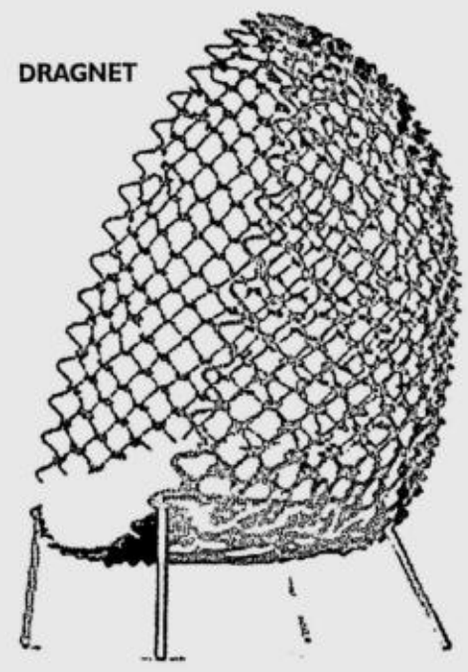
"But that's the beauty about well-designed products. They may look different on the outside but they are usually born from a similar design philosophy. Every element of the design is there for a purpose."

Cobonpue said he got the idea for the chair from a softly dented Coke can. Working on the shape for half a year and experimenting with different materials, he sought to come up with a chair that was light, strong, and beautiful. He was able to achieve this by developing a technique of slicing rattan with knife cutters and bending it to conform to a shape.

PIGALLE



DRAGNET



Form, function, inspiration

Cobonpue believes the challenge of being a designer is to design not only a beautiful object but a functional one as well.

Take for instance, his first creation, the Yin & Yang chair. Cobonpue regards it as a personal breakthrough in that it is rare a design draws so much press notice.

The design also adapts to any style at home. Because of this, it remains as one of his best-selling designs even after seven years.

Cobonpue's inspirations come from everything and everyone around him. Objects such as fishing nets, bridges, cracks on the wall, and even a piece of bread become part of his imagination. "I like to think that through my work, they (the images) have all taken a life of their own," he said.

Cobonpue said he believed Filipino talent and ingenuity could make all the difference in the creative industry.

"We are still the perceived design leaders on our part of the world, but it's a title we need to defend more vigorously with each passing year," Cobonpue said. "Our schools need to partner with the industry to know what's out there and what can be done."

Cobonpue also stressed the need for Filipino designers to read up, travel and expose themselves to other design geographies.

"Designers need to travel more," he said. "I can't stress enough the importance of global exposure. I have seen designers transform themselves from spending a week in Milan. As long as the design industry puts education and exposure as its priorities, we will go far."

E-mail the author at dxmatilla@yahoo.com

have more opportunities."

Admired by aspiring artists who often copy his style, Bencab said he was not partial to any one style. "I don't want to be prejudiced about it," he said. "You have to be fair."

He said that as a student of Fine Arts, he would copy the styles of Malang, Manansala and Sansó. "Any artist's early works are necessarily copies," he said. "And the true artist builds from there."

Sansó

Sansó, who just won the Presidential Merit Medal for his lifetime achievement in the visual arts and whose works are now auctioned off by Sotheby's and Christie's, said he was flattered when young artists copy his style.

"If they sign their names to the works that they have copied from me, I would love them. But if they sign my name on the works, I would shoot them," he said in jest.

Sansó's own career received a big boost in the 1950s when he won the top prizes in the AAP (Art Association of the Philippines) Annual. "The AAP changed my life," he said.

As a Petron judge, Sansó said: "The deciding factor for me would be the composition." "If I see sagging colors and sagging composition, then the entry is out," he said.

He explained a judge "should not be seduced by easy tricks and slavish clichés."

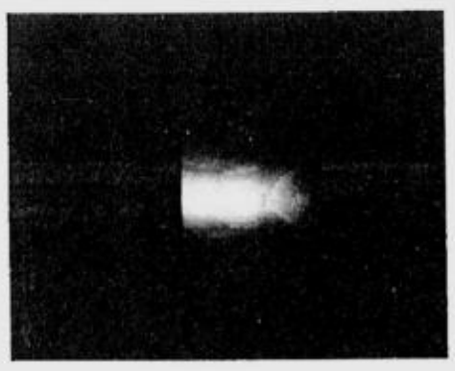
He added the theme of the contest also guides the judges. "Even if a theme is cliché, that's not a problem," he said. "The question is, what does the artist do with the theme?"

Perhaps carried off by the enthusiasm of Abueva, Bencab and Sansó—artists in command of their art and style—the other jurors also eagerly examined the entries, taking time to discuss their merits and qualities.

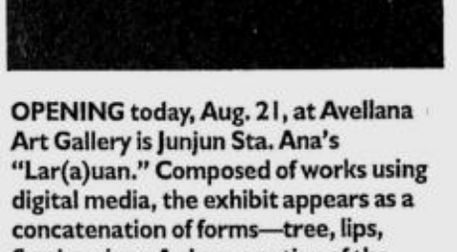
The other judges were artist and teacher Bobby Feleo, Unesco commissioner Felice Prudente Sta Maria, cultural writer Rosalinda Orosa, and Tatler editor in chief Anton San Diego.

Art Petron has a photography category. Judges were Wig Tysmans, Romeo Vitug, Denise Weldon, George Tapan and Edwin Tuyay.

Winners will be known during the awarding ceremonies on Aug. 31 at the Cultural Hall, 34/F, Petron Bldg., Gil Puyat Ave., Makati.



OPENING today, Aug. 21, at Avellana Art Gallery is Junjun Sta. Ana's "Lar(a)uan." Composed of works using digital media, the exhibit appears as a concatenation of forms—tree, lips, flowing river. A close scrutiny of the works reveals a portrait replicated countless times, providing structure to the image. With a Warholian fascination in the face, the artist recasts the possibilities of digital media into scintillating forms of rapt imagining, ranging from the homoerotic to the whimsical. Avellana Art Gallery is at A-19, 2680 F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City (fronting Gideon Academy). Call 8338357.



"ADJIE L." (top); "JAMES O." (above)

"LILIA L."

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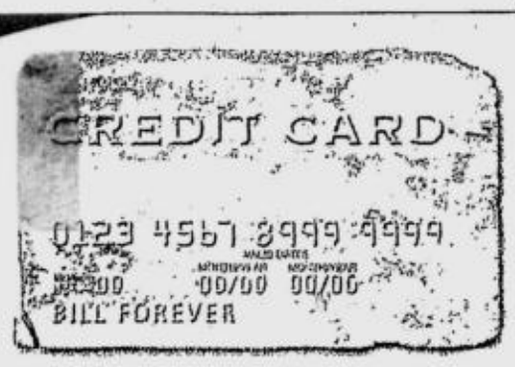

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"KITES"

"BIRDS of Paradise"

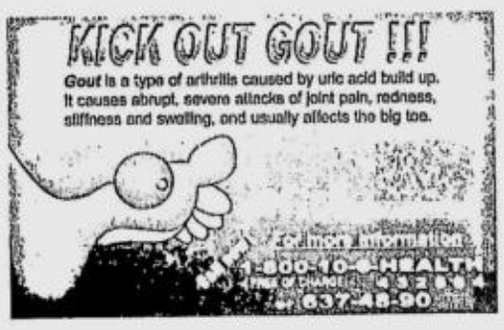
Parial at Art Exchange

THE VIBRANT ART OF Mario Parial, his canvases burgeoning with blooms, brightly hued kites and staple native sundry of Filipino festivities, will be on view at Art Exchange, 3/L, Glorietta 4, beginning Aug. 23.

Parial, a pioneer Thirteen Artists Awardee, enjoys a following consistent as his artistry. From his signature oval-faced subjects distinct with their symmetrically demarcated chins and patrician noses linked to perfectly arched brows (reminiscent of the delicate yet striking features of a *santo*), gaily colored and intricately detailed clothing and fiesta accoutrements, the artist captures much of the Fil-Hispanic tradition of revelry that is still very much alive.

The collection includes rare still-life pieces. The show runs until Sept. 1. Call 7529089.

"SACRED Heart"



MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2006

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Carmencita Lozada remembered; Lea Salonga awarded

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

VIOLINIST CARMENCITA Lozada, the first and the last Filipino prize-winner of the Paganini Competition in Italy, passed away last week (Aug. 15) due to lung cancer.

The last time she was seen by Manila's music lovers was in March last year when the National Commission for Culture and the Arts launched her collection of CDs which documented her landmark performances in Manila and Europe.

A violin prodigy from Pasig City, Lozada debuted with an orchestra at age 10 and then became soloist of the Philippine Youth Orchestra under the baton of her mentor, Maestro Luis Valencia.

In 1954, she won a national competition in Manila for playing the Tchaikovsky concerto.

In 1956 and 1961, she won in the Paganini Competition in Italy. She performed concerts in Europe, US and Canada, and was probably the only Filipino violinist to have made a radio recording in Germany (Cologne, Hamburg, Hannover, Baden-Baden), Holland, Vienna and Poland.

Lozada gave violin classes and workshops at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and National Arts Center, and premiered the violin concertos of Lucrecia Kasilag (Violin Concerto No. 1), Alfredo Buenaventura (Violin Conceto in E Minor), Lucino Sacramento, Mikhail Tareverdiev (premiered in Moscow in

CARMENCITA/ D3

LEA SALONGA

THE LATE violinist Carmencita Lozada

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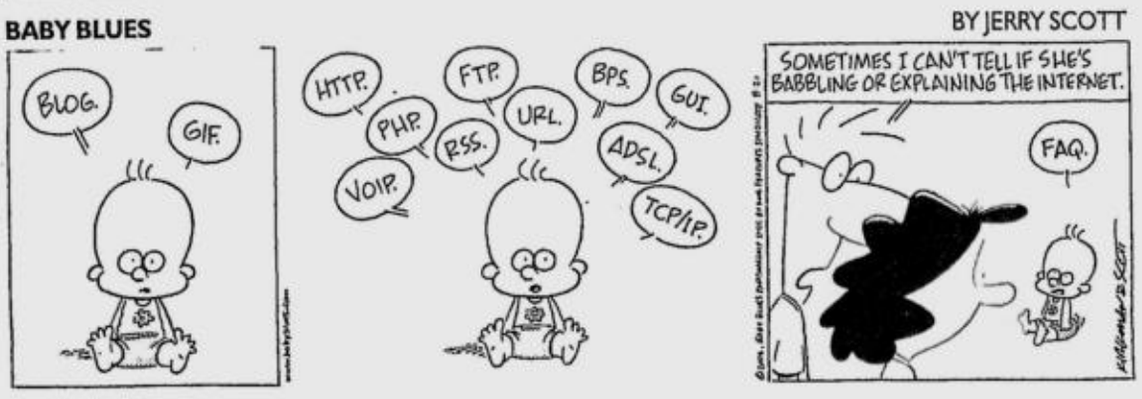


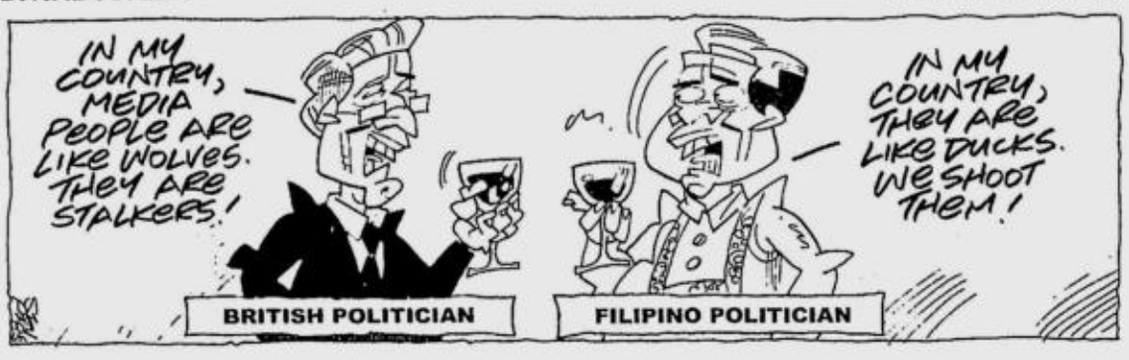
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



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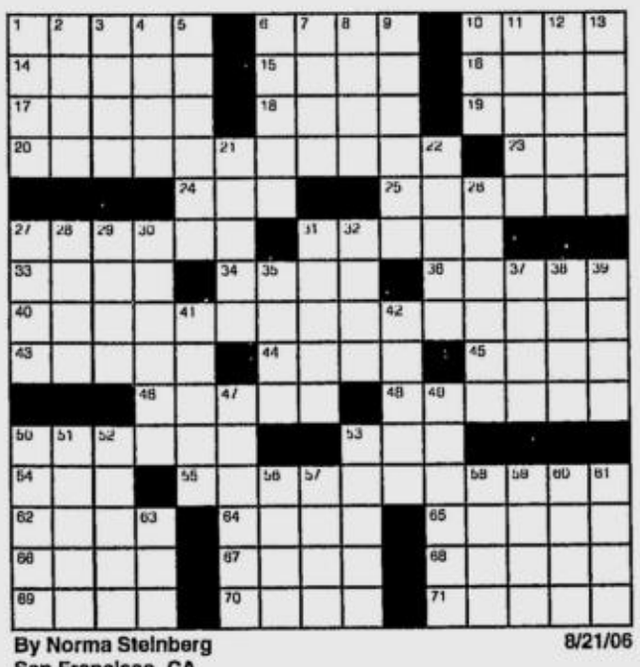
BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA
8/21/06

ACROSS
1 Ricochet
6 Clods
10 Booty
14 Barack of Illinois
15 Bloke
16 Mosaic piece
17 Sensory organs
18 Summon
19 Tantrum
20 Average guy
23 Chew the fat
24 Egt.-Syr., once
25 Posh
27 Lacking vegetation
31 Pilfer
33 "East of Eden" director Kazan
34 Oh yeah, right
36 Secret agents
40 Three average guys
43 Beer mug
44 Rick's flame in "Casablanca"
45 Nickel or quarter
46 Dance moves
48 Monopoly card
50 Godzilla rival
53 __ Na Na
54 Owing the kitty
55 Average guy
62 Back of the neck
64 Zilch
65 Dern of "Jurassic Park"
66 Concoct
67 Of all time
68 Born before
69 Four six-packs
70 New or raw follower
71 Shortstop Walt

DOWN
1 Pt. of speech
2 Bug trailer?
3 Foolhardy
4 Prophetic sign
5 "The __ of the Red Death"
6 Come to pass
7 Fictional whale seeker
8 Drop dramatically
9 Dovetail connection
10 Ave. crossers
11 Sides of stages
12 False name
13 Manage somehow
21 Fit of terror
22 Sound of cymbals
26 Llama's relative
27 All __ are off!
28 Oodles
29 Hoarfrost
30 Crudites platter item
31 Vacuum-packs
32 Hamilton bills
35 Bypass
37 Pig or cast follower
38 Writer Ambler
39 "Auld Lang __"
41 Lead-in
42 Russian villa
47 Part of ERA
49 "Hell's Angels" star
50 "Countdown" network
51 "Butterfield 8" author
52 Hits the keyboard
53 Gridlock
56 Jazz pianist Brubeck
57 Invention origination
58 New Haven campus
59 Dench of "Shakespeare in Love"
60 Mispickel and cinnabar
61 Corn units
63 Ram's lady

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

T	O	P	B	A	N	A	N	A	■	S	C	R	U	B
A	L	L	A	R	O	U	N	D	■	A	T	O	N	E
C	L	A	Y	M	O	R	E	S	■	T	R	A	S	H
K	I	N	■	A	N	O	■	■	S	E	L	L	T	O
Y	E	T	■	M	A	R	L	O	W	E	■	D	A	L
■	■	■	L	E	N	A	O	L	I	N	■	D	I	D
G	L	E	A	N	■	■	C	A	P	■	S	A	N	E
L	I	G	H	T	A	S	A	F	E	A	T	H	E	R
A	M	O	R	■	L	E	T	■	■	B	A	L	D	S
N	O	B	■	G	L	E	E	C	L	U	B	■	■	■
D	U	O	■	R	I	M	S	H	O	T	■	J	C	T
U	S	O	P	E	N	■	■	A	I	M	■	O	H	O
L	I	S	L	E	■	A	M	S	T	E	R	D	A	M
A	N	T	O	N	■	B	E	T	E	N	O	I	R	E
R	E	S	T	S	■	A	L	E	R	T	N	E	S	S

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HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a giver. You're extremely caring and supportive to those you love. Quite possibly, your family revolves around you. Privately, you're very different from your public persona, which is full of determination, panache and flair. The year ahead is exciting because it is full of new beginnings. You're starting a fresh, nine-year cycle.
Birthdate of: Kim Cattrall, actress; Carrie-Ann Moss, actress; Alicia Witt, actress

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Romantic relationships are very confused today. In fact, they might be more than confused—they might involve deceit. Keep your eyes open and your shoes on.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Conversations with parents and family members are subject to enormous confusion today. It's like two ships passing in the night. ("Can you hear me now?")

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is an extremely poor day for financial transactions, negotiations and signing contracts. Your left hand doesn't know what your right is doing. Furthermore, someone might play fast and hard with the truth

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Be very careful with all financial transactions today. Something underhanded could take place. Count your change in stores. You could lose money or be swindled.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Conversations with partners and close friends are extremely subject to confusion. In fact, somebody might be lying. At the very least, it's just an honest miscommunication.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Someone is keeping a secret from you today. Perhaps it matters—perhaps it doesn't. Nevertheless, you probably do not have all the facts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): When talking to a friend today, if you think something fishy is going on, it probably is. Trust your gut judgment. Many people are inclined to be dishonest today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): If you're confused about instructions from bosses and parents, then double-check everything. Repeat what you think the instructions are. Make sure you get everything clear.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't try to persuade others to agree with your political or religious ideas. In fact, you might not have all your facts correct. And you might be in denial about this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is very poor day to decide how to share something or divide something between yourself and others. Confusion and deceit are too prevalent right now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Conversations with partners and close friends are extremely confusing. This could be due to outright fabrication and lying, or it could be genuine confusion. Either way, be alert.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Speak very clearly with coworkers today. Assume nothing. Make sure you understand very clearly what others expect from you. It's very easy to misinterpret things. If you doubt or question anything, speak up.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

9			8	7			4	1
			1	5		8		7
			3			5	9	
5	4	3						
7	8			2			5	3
						9	8	4
	3	8			7			
1		6		8	4			
2	7			9	3			8

Difficulty Level ★
8/21

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

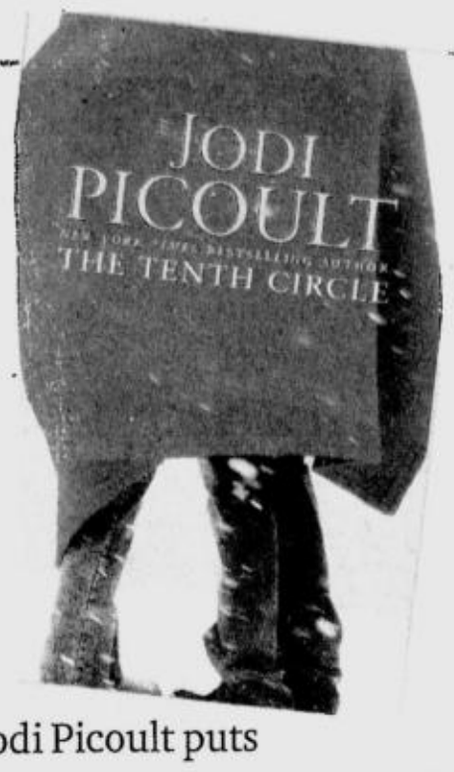
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	7	3	2	8	9	4	5	6
4	2	6	7	5	1	8	3	9
8	5	9	4	6	3	7	1	2
2	3	8	1	4	5	6	9	7
9	4	5	8	7	6	3	2	1
7	6	1	9	3	2	5	8	4
3	9	7	5	2	4	1	6	8
6	8	2	3	1	7	9	4	5
5	1	4	6	9	8	2	7	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

'Circle' of lies



Jodi Picoult puts the funk to a dysfunctional family with her tricky new novel 'The Tenth Circle'

By Ruel S. De Vera

DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES ARE easy targets for contemporary novelists, so that troubled immediate relations may have become an overused conceit. But now and then, a fictionist will unveil a family that's even more messed up than usual.

Jodi Picoult's 13th novel, "The Tenth Circle" (Atria Books, New York, 2006, 388 pages), tells of a family in distress, the Stones, and blends funk and dysfunction all under the same cover.

Picoult, author of twisty tales such as "Vanishing Acts" and "My Sister's Keeper," introduces the reader to what may be the ultimate problem family in Bethel, Maine, seemingly your usual sleepy American hamlet.

Daniel Stone is a hot comic-book artist but running away from a past tragedy that occurred while he was growing up as the only white boy in a Yup'ik Eskimo village in Alaska. Laura Stone is a popular college professor at Monroe College with a specialty in Dante's "Divine Comedy"—with the "Inferno" her favorite part—but is secretly struggling with an affair. And the daughter, 14-year-old Trixie, is dealing with a heart-rending breakup with the town's star hockey player.

And then things get worse. The family's secrets come crashing together when Trixie returns home one night, sobbing, claiming she's been raped. Daniel is inconsolable as he rushes his daughter to the hospital while Laura is nowhere to be found. From this traumatic moment, "Circle" gains tragic momentum.

Trixie's charges are investigated and the Stones truly start to fall apart at the speed of spiraling damnation. A surprising death, town torment, a ghostly visitation, a quick escape and a perilous chase ensue. "Circle" spins rapidly into melodrama territory.

"This is how it feels when you realize your child is missing: The pit of your stomach freezes fast, while your legs go jelly. There's one single, blue-bass thud in your heart. The shape of her name, sharp as metal filings, gets caught between your teeth even as you try to force it out in a shout. Fear breathes like a monster in your ear," Picoult writes in her addictively lyrical style, prose loaded with a trickster's mischief.

She mixes past recriminations, midlife crises, adolescent angst and familial issues together in the "Inferno" allegory.

For "Circle," Picoult dares to experiment by including penciled pages from Daniel's ongoing project, "The Immortal Wildclaw." The comic book is about Duncan, a man who must journey through Dante's circles of Hell to rescue his daughter. Yet he has the power to transform into beasts.

"The catch was this: Power always involved a loss of humanity. If Duncan turned into a hawk or a bear or a wolf to elude a dangerous creature, a piece of him would stay that way. His biggest fear was that if and when he did find his missing daughter, she would no longer recognize who he'd become in order to save her," Picoult explains.

The penciled pages, written by Picoult and actually penciled by Dustin Weaver, are nothing groundbreaking, art-wise, but do add an unmistakably realistic vibe to "Circle."

Also, Picoult has hidden a secret message in the panels, adding another puzzle to the book's arsenal of puzzles. This should serve Picoult well as she is slated to take over the writing chores on a real DC Comics series—the recently relaunched "Wonder Woman."

It is clear that Picoult puts together a compulsively readable tale, sending readers running through the pages , complete with a realistic portrayal of the comic-book and Eskimo worlds. Perhaps the problem with "Circle" is just how too easily the various layers of meaning and imagery slide together.

The whole "Inferno" motif gets overwhelming halfway through. And the overwrought coincidences used to tie together the different subplots get ridiculous very quickly. Proof of this is that one of "Circle's" inaugural premises is that Daniel grew up in an Eskimo village named Bethel and now lives in a Maine town—of the same name. Or the throwaway detail that the investigating detective has a potbellied pig for a pet?

The disparate elements and beguiling writing in "Circle" are sublime even as the over-the-top devices and the impossibly tidy ending work against it. Still, Picoult goes for something very different in form and function in "The Tenth Circle," and maverick novels should be rewarded with readers even if weighed down by overly precious symbolism.

Available in paperback from National Book Store.

Books on dance and literature

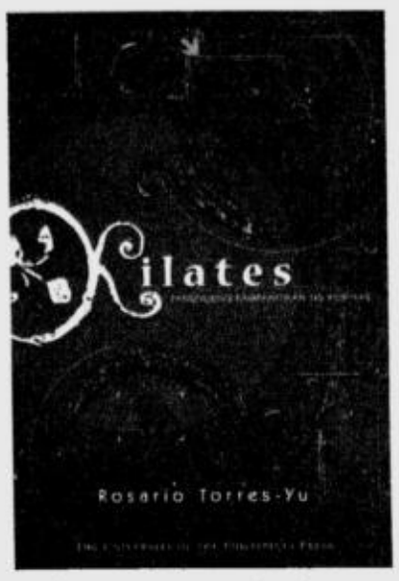
STUDENTS OF LITERATURE WILL find an invaluable resource in "Kilates: Panunuring Pampanitikan ng Pilipinas." This book brings together the writings of Lumbera, Almario, Ricarte, among many others, and reflects the breadth of contemporary Philippine literary criticism.

Written mostly in Filipino, these essays represent well-established formal and sociological approaches, as well as new critical frameworks provided by Post-Structuralism, Post-Colonialism, Feminism, Cultural Studies, Reception Theory and Neo-Marxism.

Edited by Rosario Torres-Yu, this collection provides students with landmarks to help navigate the field of literary criticism, familiarizing readers with the critical standards which inform the study of good, meaningful and significant Filipino literary productions.

Torres-Yu teaches at the University of the Philippines and is a recipient of several awards including the Gawad Cecilio Lopez, Gawad Collantes and Carlos Palanca Memorial Award for Literature.

"Treading Through," written by



dance and theater critic Basilio Esteban Villaruz, is the first reader on Philippine dance. Observed through 45 years of viewing, reviewing and doing, the book is one observer's understanding of the what, where and how of dance, who makes it and why.

"Sawikaan 2005: Mga Salita ng Taon" is a collection of essays exploring the words that have entered and transformed Philippine lexicon over the past year. Edited by Galileo S. Zafra and Michael M. Coroza, the book is a project of Filipinas Institute of Translation, in fulfillment of its goal to promote Philippine culture and arts.

"Kilates," "Threading Through" and "Sawikaan 2005" are published by the University of the Philippines Press and available at Aeon Books on Katipunan; Popular Bookstore in T. Morato; Solidaridad, PowerBooks, National Book Store, Bound Bookshop, Fully Booked; and at UP Press bookstores in UP Diliman, Baguio, Iloilo and Davao.

Book on IT division of labor

"POSSIBLE WORLDS IN IMPOSSIBLE Spaces" by Dr. Czarina Saloma-Akpedonu will be launched Aug. 25, 4:30 p.m., at Conference Rooms 1 and 2, 2/F, Social Sciences Bldg., Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC.

Dr. Akpedonu teaches at the Loyola Schools' Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

This pioneering book examines changes in the global division of labor, particularly in the field of IT. The book organizes the global IT industry into three groups: technological elite (IT companies and professionals that provide the framework and infrastructure to allow others to work on their own); intermediate developers (IT groups and professionals who develop products for everyday users based on the work of the first group); and consumers in various localities.

The emergence of intermediate developers and technological elite on the local IT scene is unaccounted for in the erstwhile "new international division of labor," a framework that traditionally regarded countries like the Philippines as mere sources of low-skilled labor and sites of assembly activities. By looking at this new development in the industry, through interviews and biographic studies of hardware and software developers, technopreneurs and professionals, as well as their everyday-life world, the book provides a nuanced way of thinking about a global network industry operating within a complex local setting.

"Possible Worlds in Impossible Spaces: Knowledge, Globality, Gender and Information Technology in the Philippines" is published by the Ateneo de Manila University Press, and available in bookstores and press bookshop.

Call 4265984 or e-mail unipress @admu.edu.ph

New book on looking for your true love

YOU ARE 25 GOING ON 40 AND still single. People—your mother, aunt, cousins, friends, neighbors—nag you with the question: When are you ever getting married?

And so, not a few single women, faced with this constant pressure, desperately look for a man, and not a few of them end up with the wrong guy and live miserably ever after.

If you are still single you might save yourself from committing the same mistake by reading the latest book from best-selling and relationship author Bo Sanchez, titled "How to Find Your One True Love."

Sanchez, a lay evangelist, points out that many a woman tends to overspiritualize matters of the heart. Many a Christian woman ascribes to the basic philosophy that declares: "Trust in God the Matchmaker. He'll pick the guy for you. He'll give you a husband. Don't look. Don't search. Don't do anything."

Sanchez says women should not give God the responsibility He gave them. He points out that trusting God

AUTHOR Bo Sanchez

does not mean staying put and doing nothing, that trusting Him means doing all you can with all He gave you—with Him on your side.

In his book, Bo gives eight very practical steps on how to attract a lifetime partner—even if you're already past 40. "I'm so tempted to give a guarantee with the book that you'll be married within two years if you apply what I teach," Sanchez said.

Sanchez also has the "Complete Take-Home Course," which contains DVDs or audio CDs of his talks in his recently concluded seminar "How to Find Your One True Love," a manual of relationship strategies, questions, and practical wisdom not found in the book. He also has "Life Dreams and Success Journal" to help one discover one's mission in life.

"How to Find Your One True Love" is available in bookstores nationwide and may be purchased online at shepherdsvoice.com.ph. It is also available in E-book form at onetrueloventwork.com.

Sanchez's writings appear in Kerygma, an inspirational magazine that a Catholic bishop once called "the publishing miracle of Asia."

He has a weekly show, "Kerygma TV," which he hosts with Kerygma editor Rissa Singson, on RPN-9 every Wednesday at 11:30 p.m.

BPI CHAIR Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Salonga and husband Robert Charles Chien, and BPI president Aurelio R. Montinola III

Carmencita Lozada....

From page D1

1982) and Wolfgang Hofman (Fantasia Filipina, premiered in Germany).

In the last interview she gave last year during the launching of her CD, Lozada summarized what it was like to be an artist of the world:

"To be a real artist in its truest sense is always a tough one. But if you have the talent, it becomes a compulsion and a responsibility. I am reminded of an experience in Holland where I was asked to substitute for an ailing artist a day before the performance. I have no more time to get an assisting artist and so I prepared a program of solo sonatas by Bach, Hindemith, Max Reger, Jean Martinon and Prokofiev. After the concert, I had a headache for three days because of the tough repertoire and the concentration I devoted to them.

"I was a last-minute substitute for a Sibelius concerto in Frankfurt and another one in France where the famous violinist, Henryk Szeryng, heard me and was full of compliments for me. As interpreter, it is important to have spiritual insight and individual nuances within the confines of the style. Once the mastery of the piece is achieved, the artist surrenders to the dictates of the music as in a trance."

Like Dalisay Aldaba, Lozada devoted an entire life to art. Both should be named National Artists.

Lea feted

Brand-new mother and exceptional singing actress Lea Salonga was given a special award by the Bank of the Philippine Islands on the occasion of its 155th anniversary last Thursday at the Manila Hotel.

Hearing her sing "Tomorrow" (from "Annie") was like déjà vu. I had heard her sing it first when she was 9 at CCP in 1980. During the BPI affair, she sang it while her baby, Nicole Beverly, was in a suite in the hotel.

Lea shared the limelight with Ballet Philippines and later sang "Tagumpay" with the Philippine Madrigal Singers. She received the award from BPI chair, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II.

Asked how motherhood would change her as an artist, Lea replied: "As a mother now, I guess I will have a greater understanding of the goings-on of the human heart. There are mysteries of the heart that are only revealed once a child is born. I was told one doesn't know love until you have a child. I believe this to be true. As a mother, I will probably perform in another level. Which means that songs will probably be just so much sweeter to sing."

Virtuosity

In the last edition of "Romantic Piano Concerto Journey" of pianists Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes at the Manila Polo Club, Imelda Marcos asked during the open forum: "What do you want to achieve when you play? Do you listen mostly to yourself or do you add some virtuosity to please your audience? Is power over the keyboard always attributed to men and are women pianists more lyrical than men?"

Reyes said virtuosity on the piano almost always depends on the piece and what it demands from the pianist and a good performance has nothing to do with gender.

Another question from Marcos: "Is it good to be more rational than emotional when interpreting some pieces?" She said that when she embarked to construct the CCP she was more concerned about how the CCP would benefit the Filipino artists rather than count every peso that went to the construction of that building. "I guess I was more concerned with the over-all result rather than be rational as to how much the whole thing would actually cost. I guess my being a child of emotion got me into trouble."

In live music, a rational and note-perfect performance often leaves audiences cold. In the French film "The Piano Teacher," the pedagogue, who calls herself a Schubert specialist, tells her pupil, "A wrong note in Beethoven is more tolerable than a bad interpretation."

Workshop on shooting documentaries

THE FILIPINAS HERITAGE LIBRARY HOSTS a workshop on shooting documentary films beginning Aug. 26, with Fil-Am filmmaker Isabel E. Kenny as resource person.

Whether you want to develop idea for a documentary, master the art of visual storytelling, or hone your interviewing skills to get a subject to reveal what is going on beneath the surface, you may take all 10 workshop sessions and produce a short documentary, or take any of the one- or two-day courses on how to conduct effective interviews on- and off-camera, to develop your technical skills in shooting, lighting and getting good sound, or to put the documentary together in the editing suite.

Workshop fee for all 10 sessions is P12,500, with a free copy of "Making Documentaries in the Philippines" by Kenny.

The Filipinas Heritage Library is on Makati Avenue at the Ayala Triangle, Makati City. E-mail services@filipinaslibrary.org.ph or call 8921801.

UST classical concert

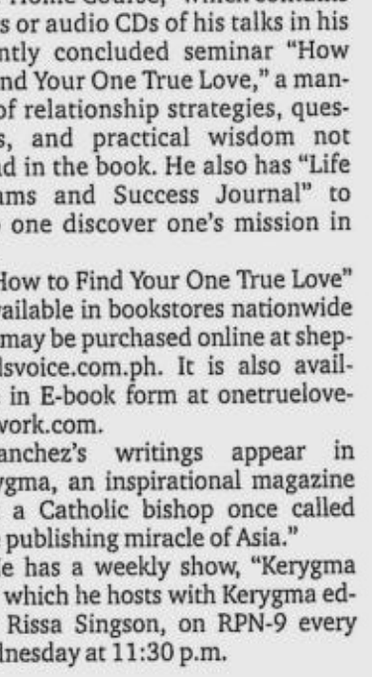
THE UST CONSERVATORY OF Music Alumni Association (USTCMAA), in cooperation with Philam-life Insurance, is proud to present "An Evening of Wind and Piano Music" on Aug. 25, 7.30 p.m., at Philamlife Theater.

Featured artists are alumni of the UST Conservatory of Music: Ariel Sta. Ana (clarinet), Adolfo Mendoza (bassoon), and Mary Anne Espina (piano). Proceeds of this concert will be for the scholarship fund of the USTCMAA.

Both Sta. Ana and Mendoza finished their Bachelor of Music degree at the UST Conservatory of Music (USTCM), and their Master of Music degree at Elizabeth University of Music in Hiroshima, Japan. Both are also faculty members of the USTCM and regular members of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

Espina finished her BM degree at St. Scholastica's College of Music, and her MM degree "summa cum laude" at USTCM, where she is a full-time faculty member.

The three will perform the works of Mendelssohn, Tansman, Piazolla, Poulenc, Glinka and Gershwin.



ADOLFO Mendoza

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

Arriving via the indie route

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

TAKE FIVE

UNLIKE MOST OF HIS peers who line up for 15 minutes of fame on talent search shows like "Starstruck" and "Star Circle Quest," 17-year-old actor Alchris Galura is bravely taking the indie route.

His filmography consists of acclaimed alternative movies—"Mga Munting Tinig," "Santa Santita," "Lagusan" and "Babae sa Breakwater."

"Babae" was shown at the Cannes and, for him, merited nominations from the Famas (Best Child Actor) and the Urian (Best Supporting Actor) in 2004.

Last year, Alchris headlined two digital films—the Erasto-MLR production "Mga Pusang Gala" and the Cinemalaya entry "Sarong Banggi," which opens in theaters Sept. 6.

He won Best Actor in this year's Cinemalaya for "Batad: Sa Paang

ARRIVING/ E5

INSIDE

Lovi Poe's most vivid memory of her dad /E4

They came, they saw ...

... and they were conquered by Vina Morales, stunning star of "Showgirl" at the Big Dome on Friday night.

See page E6.

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1 CLICK • THX
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

3 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50

4 KUBRADOR
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

5 OH MY GHOST!
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 MORTUARY
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

8 AMERICAN DREAMZ
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

9 MIAMI VICE
1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50

10 SUKOB
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
Sneak Preview

3 MORTUARY
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

4 CLICK
10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 SUKOB
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
12:10 2:10 4:10 6:10 8:05 10:00

7 OH MY GHOST!
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE DEVI WEARS PRADA
Sneak Preview

2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

3 STORMBREAKER
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

4 SUKOB
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

5 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

6 MORTUARY
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

7 CLICK
12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00

8 OH MY GHOST!
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9 10

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 MORTUARY
3 OH MY GHOST!
4 SUKOB
5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575 PIONEER 687-5378

1 SUKOB
2 CLICK
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 OH MY GHOST!
4 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

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1 OH MY GHOST!
2 CLICK
3 THE ANT BULLY
4 SUKOB

1 THE ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 OH MY GHOST!

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332 ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 WOLF CREEK
2 MIAMI VICE
3 OH MY GHOST!
4 SUKOB

1 CLICK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 OH MY GHOST!
4 SUKOB

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188 STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 981-5270

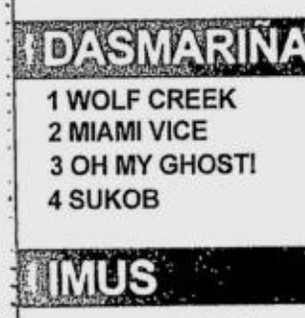
1 OH MY GHOST!
2 STORMBREAKER
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 SUKOB
5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 OH MY GHOST!
5 THE BREAK-UP
6 STORMBREAKER

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459 ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 THE BREAK-UP
2 CLICK
3 OH MY GHOST
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 SUKOB
6 TAMARA

1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST!
3 THE BREAK-UP
4 JUST MY LUCK



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P300 -After 5 pm (Mon- Thurs)
P300 -All screenings (Fri- Sun)
SUPERMAN RETURNS
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1 CLICK
2 AMERICAN DREAMZ/ BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 OH MY GHOST
6 MORTUARY
PREMIERE CINEMA
SUKOB
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND/ MIAMI VICE
the PODIUM
CINEMA 1
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
CINEMA 2
AMERICAN DREAMZ
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SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 STORMBREAKER/ PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
5 SUKOB
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
7 MIAMI VICE
8 KUBRADOR
9 OH MY GHOST
10 MORTUARY
11 CLICK
12 AMERICAN DREAMZ

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 CLICK
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 MIAMI VICE
4 MORTUARY
5 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
7 STORMBREAKER
8 KUBRADOR
9 RESERVED
10 SUKOB
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
12 OH MY GHOST

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 MIAMI VICE
4 MORTUARY
5 CLICK
6 OH MY GHOST
7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
8 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
9 SUKOB
10 STORMBREAKER
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
12 ANT BULLY

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 OH MY GHOST
4 CLICK
5 SUKOB
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 MIAMI VICE
8 MORTUARY
9 AMERICAN DREAMZ
10 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 CLICK
4 MORTUARY
5 OH MY GHOST
6 SUKOB

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 OH MY GHOST
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 STORMBREAKER
8 MORTUARY
9 KUBRADOR/AMERICAN DREAMZ

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 OH MY GHOST
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 SUKOB

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 CLICK
3 MORTUARY
4 SUKOB
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
6 AMERICAN DREAMZ
7 KUBRADOR
8 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
9 STORMBREAKER
10 MIAMI VICE
11 OH MY GHOST
12 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 MIAMI VICE
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB
4 CLICK

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 OH MY GHOST

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 OH MY GHOST
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

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2 OH MY GHOST
3 CLICK
4 SUKOB

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1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB
4 ANT BULLY

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 STORMBREAKER
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 OH MY GHOST
5 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
6 SUKOB
7 CLICK
8 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST
3 STORMBREAKER
4 SUKOB

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 SUKOB
2 CLICK
3 ANT BULLY
4 OH MY GHOST

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 THE BREAK-UP
3 CLICK
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 OH MY GHOST
6 SUKOB

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 SUKOB
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 CLICK
4 STORMBREAKER
5 THE BREAK-UP
6 OH MY GHOST

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1 OH MY GHOST
2 ANT BULLY
3 MIAMI VICE
4 SUKOB

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 CLICK
2 ANT BULLY
3 OH MY GHOST
4 SUKOB

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 CLICK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 MIAMI VICE
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
6 OH MY GHOST
7 SUKOB
8 MIAMI VICE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 THE BREAK-UP
2 RESERVED
3 SUKOB
4 ANT BULLY
5 CLICK
6 OH MY GHOST
7 RESERVED
8 JUST MY LUCK

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 MIAMI VICE
2 SUKOB
3 LOVEWRECKED
4 OH MY GHOST
5 CLICK
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 THE BREAK-UP
2 SUKOB
3 OH MY GHOST
4 CLICK

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movietime PROMO

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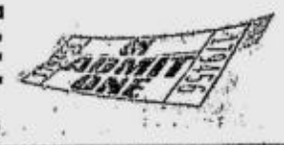

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E2

ROUNDUP

'Mobisoaps'

'MOBISOAPS,' THE first series created by ABS-CBN exclusively for cell phones, presents its initial offering, "Waiting for Love," starring Mariel Rodriguez, Karel Marquez and Will Devaughn.

To view the series, subscribers can text WAIT to 2366.

The series is divided into 12 two-minute installments, released Sundays and Wednesdays.

"It's a good way to kill a minute or two when waiting for something or somebody," says ABS-CBN Interactive managing director Pablo Pineda. "The cliffhangers are great and the love story is simple but fun."

'Entourage'

THE HBO original series "Entourage" begins its second season tomorrow.

Young actor Vince Chase and his friends from Queens return with more of the antics that give viewers an amusing peek into glitzy and glamorous Hollywood.

The series stars Adrian Grenier as Vince, Kevin Connolly, Kevin Dillon, Jerry Ferrara, and Jeremy Piven.

Sarajevo fest

SARAJEVO, Bosnia- Herzegovina — The Sarajevo Film Festival, which began in a basement during the Bosnian war in 1994, opened its doors Friday night as an established cinema event that has drawn internationally famous artists and 100,000 filmgoers.

The guest list for the 12th annual event included British film and theater director Mike Leigh, actor Nick Nolte and Bosnian director Danis Tanovic, whose film "No Man's Land" won the 2002 Academy Award for Best Foreign film.

The festival features 165 movies from about 40 countries. *Samir Krilic, AP*

Missing work

CHICAGO — Chicago Sun-Times film critic Roger Ebert, battling cancer in a Chicago hospital, says he looks forward to coming back to work despite a hard road to recovery that has kept him hospitalized for three months.

"I don't have a crystal ball, so I can't tell you when, but I sure look forward to being back on the movie beat," he said in a statement Thursday. *AP*

Bin Laden docu

CNN presents "In The Footsteps of Bin Laden," a two-hour investigation that paints a revealing portrait of Osama bin Laden from childhood, with first-hand accounts of people who have known him throughout his life.

The documentary, reported by CNN's chief international correspondent Christiane Amanpour, airs Aug. 24 at 8 p.m., Aug. 25 at 2 a.m., Sept. 2 at 1 p.m. and 10 p.m., Sept. 3 at 3 a.m. and 1 p.m. and Sept. 4 at 3 a.m.

SAMUEL L. Jackson holds a snake during the movie's premiere Grauman's in Los Angeles, left photo. At right, a scene from "SoaP."

'Snakes' surpasses all the hype

NEW YORK — "SNAKES ON A PLANE" WAS not shown to critics before opening day. Something to do with letting the fans see it first, allowing them to enjoy a purer moviegoing experience.

And truly, the hype from the title alone has built to such a frenzied din — or a deafening hiss, if you will — why bother screening it? There is just no need.

REVIEW

Ordinarily this makes critics very cranky. But in the case of "Snakes on a Plane" (or "SoaP," the cutesy acronym by which it has become known) it was the perfect choice. Because this is not the kind of movie you want to see in an intimate theater with a handful of people. This is a movie that is uniquely, ideally suited for the rowdy, crowded communal experience, the likes of which we haven't seen since "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."

This is an event. It is a rare example of a film not just living up to the hype, but surpassing it. And it is the best time you will have at the movies all summer, if not all year.

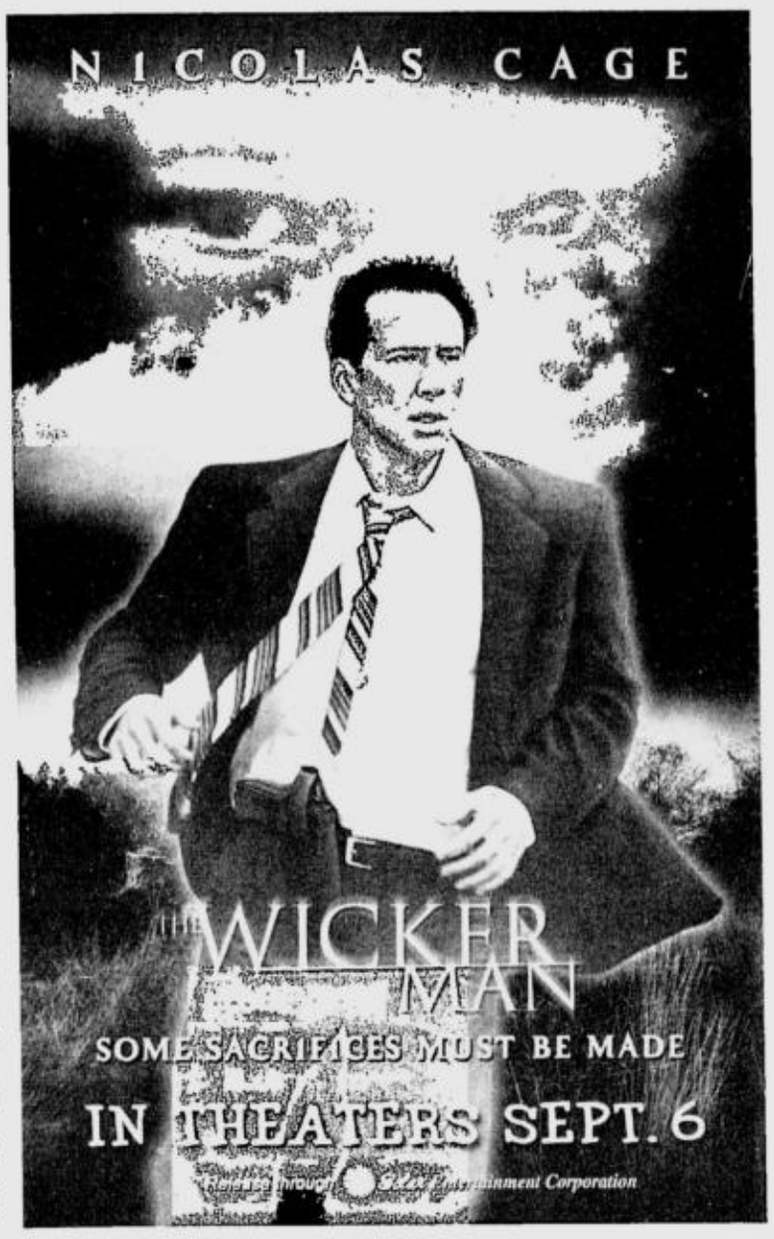
Granted, it is difficult to separate the two — the sensation of watching the film en masse and the film itself — because they are so intrinsically entwined. At a recent late-night showing, a guy wearing a Big Bird mask led the packed auditorium in spirited "Snakes on a Plane" cheers — and this was during the trailers, before the film had even started.

So you can imagine the hysteria when Samuel L. Jackson, as FBI agent Neville Flynn, barks out the climactic line that has been well-known for weeks now. (In case you were unaware, Agent Flynn expresses his annoyance at the prodigious number of reptiles aboard this particular 747. Only he uses a really descriptive 12-letter word.)

Having said that, "Snakes on a Plane" does stand up on its own two, er, feet as a thrilling action flick. It accomplishes exactly what it sets out to do, and it does so in brilliant fashion. It is intense and suspenseful, scary and gory, darkly fun ny and sometimes giddily hysterical.

Air travel is not the most entertaining topic these days, and it has not been for a long time. Jackson, who has honed acting to both a science and an art, is the guy you want at the controls any old time. *Christy Lemire, AP*

It's intense, suspenseful, gory, and sometimes giddily hysterical



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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	3 MORTUARY	4 OH MY GHOST!
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CLICK	2 SUKOB	3 THX MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:25, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 AMERICAN DREAMZ	5 KUBRADOR	6 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	7 FREEDOMLAND
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND		2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX CLICK 2:20, 4:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 FREEDOMLAND 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 AMERICAN DREAMZ 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA		2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	
	3 CLICK	4 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2	5 AMERICAN DREAMZ	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	2 MIAMI VICE	3 WOLFCREEK	4 CLICK
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND		2 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2	
	3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	4 OH MY GHOST!	5 SUKOB	

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Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

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GREENBELT — Jazz Nights at GB 2 August 16, 23 & 30, 2006

Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents Walt Disney's ALADDIN JR. at REP's Globe Theater - Aug. 26, Sept. 3, 9, Oct. 14 & 22 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM — Ode To The Pasig River June 27 to August 27, 2006 For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

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The 3rd German Silent Film Festival
presents
Tabu
with music by Bo Razon
on Tuesday, August 22, 2006, at Greenbelt 1 Cinema 2, 8:00 PM

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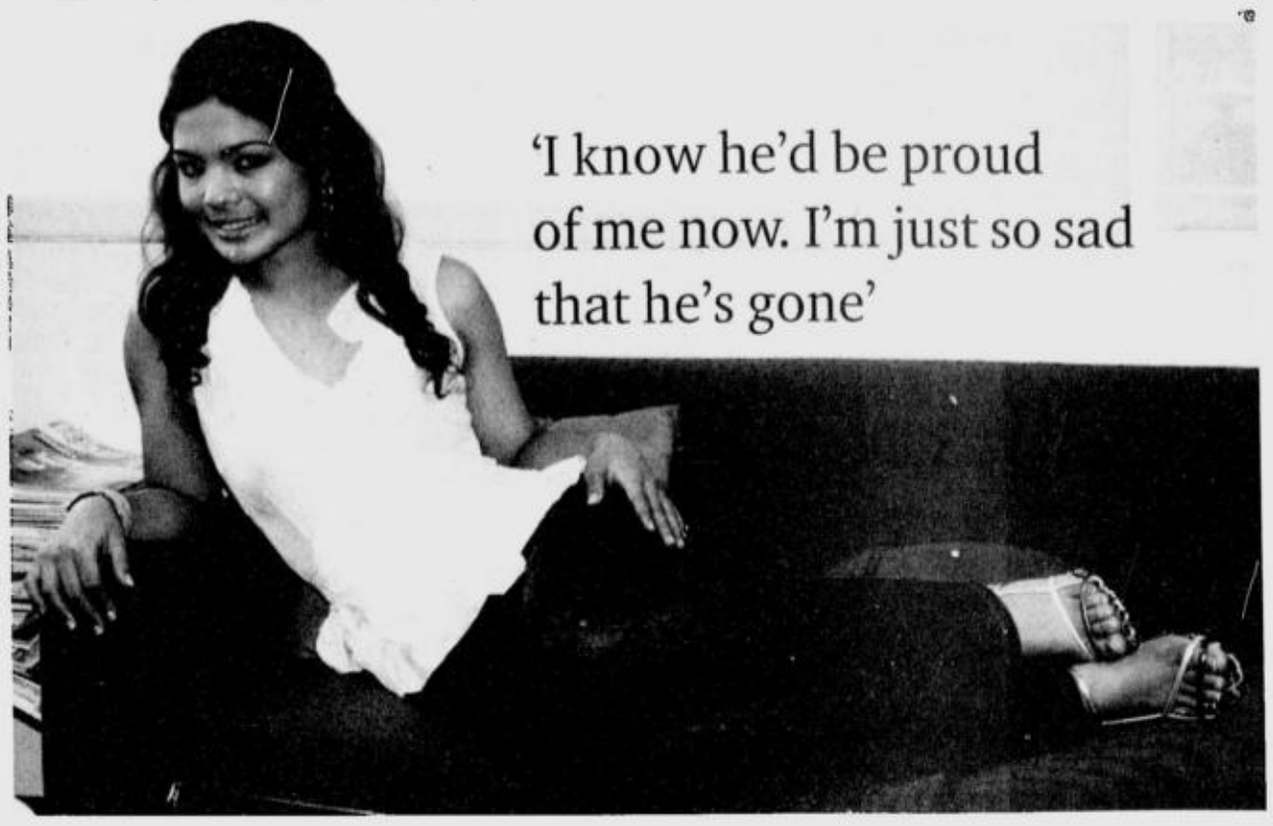

Lovi fondly remembers Sunday meals with FPJ

Text and photo by Nini Valera

HER MOST UNFORGETTABLE memory of her father, Fernando Poe Jr., was when he scolded her for lying.

Lovi Poe, 17, youngest daughter of the late action star and National Artist for film, recalled how she had lied to her mother, former model Rowena Moran, about going to the Araneta Center with friends. She was only 14 at the time and had not been allowed to go out on her own.

"I lost my friend's video camera," Lovi related. She couldn't tell her mother, so she phoned her dad and poured it all out. "*Nasermonan ako* (He scolded me)," she recalled. "I promised him I'd never lie again."

The next day, FPJ sent his daughter money to replace the video cam she had lost... and buy her own. That video cam is now one of Lovi's most prized possessions.

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Disciplinarian

"My Dad was a disciplinarian," she told INQUIRER Entertainment in an exclusive interview on Thursday. "I'd never get anything on a whim. My parents raised me to be a simple person. They taught me values that I try to live up to."

One of these values is the concept of hard work, said Lovi, a high school senior at Collegio San Agustin.

"I've always wanted to be a singer," she said. "I often discussed that with my Dad. He was supportive, advising me to work hard for my dreams. I think he'd be proud of me [now]. I'm just so sad that he's dead."

Minor issue

Lovi said her dad also prepared her for the meanness of show biz. "He said I couldn't please everybody [but I should] treat everybody equally."

She claimed she never capitalized on her being a Poe to make a name in the industry. In fact, she dropped her last name for her first album, "Lovi: The Best of My Heart," under Sony-BMG Music.

When she was growing up, it never occurred to her that she was a famous figure's child out of wedlock and should be kept hidden away.

"I grew up a normal child," she said. "My Dad loved me and cared for me. He'd pick me up Sundays and we'd go to his house in Antipolo, where he'd cook for me—he loved to cook—gambas, steaks."

That Lovi had never spent a night with FPJ was a minor inconvenience.

"We were together Christmas and on my birthdays," she said. "I would spend Christmas Eve with my mom and my (half) sister, and I would be with my dad on Christmas day. On my birthdays, he'd always pick me up after I celebrate with my mom and my sister."

The only time their Sunday routine was broken was when FPJ was campaigning for the presidency in 2004.

"I was disappointed but I understood," said Lovi.

The darkest day of her life was when FPJ's secretary, Susan Tagle, called to say her father was in the hospital and comatose.

"I got to see him in the hospital," Lovi recounted. "Tita Susan (Roces) allowed me to see him."

But she would meet Susan only during her father's wake. "She's very nice," Lovi said.

Inheritance

Her inheritance is now being settled, she added. She said she was in touch with her half-siblings on FPJ's side. "Ronian, Mike, and Mary Grace... but we're not really close," said Lovi. We just communicate by text.

The closest person to her is her mother. "My mother never married," Lovi said. "She has devoted her life to me and my sister."

Lovi has been cast to play Crystal in the teleserye "Bakekang" soon to be aired on GMA 7. She has also been tapped to star in the final season of the network's teen-oriented drama "Love to Love," also on GMA 7.

DID YOU KNOW...

Manilow gets hip surgery

LOS ANGELES—Barry Manilow has canceled his three remaining performances at the Las Vegas Hilton to undergo surgery to repair torn cartilage in both hips, his publicist said.

The 60-year-old singer has a four-year concert contract with the hotel.

He announced Aug. 7 that he would continue performing through his appearance at the upcoming Emmy Awards and then go in for surgery. But during a show Wednesday, Manilow announced the pain has made it too difficult to continue performing.

He is still expected to make his Aug. 27 appearance at the Emmys and will then be admitted to a Southern California hospital

Recovery and rehabilitation is expected to be about eight weeks.

He is scheduled to return in mid-October to launch a new album. *AP*

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
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1 (DOLBY) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 (DOLBY) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 (DOLBY) BUTTERFLY EFFECT-2 / AMERICAN DREAMZ
4 (DOLBY) CLICK
PREMIERE: ANT BULLY (DOLBY)

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Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 CLICK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 OH MY GHOST

starmall EDSA SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 SUKOB
4 (SURROUND EX) OH MY GHOST
5 BUTTERFLY EFFECT-2

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 OH MY GHOST
2 SUKOB
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 MORTUARY

THEATRES
1 JUST MY LUCK
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel. (042) 660-5271
OH MY GHOST
CLICK
RESERVED
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Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DTS) SUKOB
2 (SDDS) MIAMI VICE
3 (DTS) CLICK
4 (SDDS) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 (SDDS) BUTTERFLY EFFECT-2
6 (SDDS) AMERICAN DREAMZ
7 (SDDS) MORTUARY
8 STORMBREAKER/PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN-2
9 (SDDS) KUBRADOR
10 (SDDS) OH MY GHOST

Blue Wave MALL & CINEMA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) SUKOB
2 (DOLBY) OH MY GHOST
3 (DOLBY) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) SUKOB
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 OH MY GHOST
4 AMERICAN DREAMZ
5 KUBRADOR

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 THE BREAK UP
2 STORMBREAKER
3 UNITED 93
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 OH MY GHOST
2 MORTUARY
3 SUKOB

Center Mall Cinema
Bagulo Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 CLICK

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY SR) SUKOB
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 (DTS EX) THE BREAK UP
4 OH MY GHOST

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SUKOB
2 ANT BULLY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) AMERICAN DREAMZ
2 (DOLBY) CLICK
3 (DOLBY) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 (DOLBY) BUTTERFLY EFFECT-2

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SUKOB
2 (DTS) OH MY GHOST
3 (DOLBY) ANT BULLY
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 SUKOB
2 (DOLBY) ANT BULLY
3 (DTS) OH MY GHOST
4 TAKE THE LEAD

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 ANT BULLY
2 OH MY GHOST
3 (DOLBY) SUKOB

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 OH MY GHOST
2 ANT BULLY
3 (DOLBY) SUKOB
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 JUST M Y LUCK / ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 (DOLBY) OH MY GHOST

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SUKOB
2 OH MY GHOST

Lianas Cinema (Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 TAMARA
2 WILD ORCHIDS

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) WOLF CREEK
2 MULATA
3 LIGAYA PANTASYA NG BAYAN
4 (DTS) WILD ORCHIDS

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) ANT BULLY
2 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
3 (DTS) TAMARA
4 SUKOB
5 OH MY GHOST

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 TAMARA
2 ANT BULLY
3 OH MY GHOST
4 SUKOB

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 OH MY GHOST
2 ZEX & ZEN UNTOLD STORY

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1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND MTRCB R-13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 MTRCB R-13 12:00, 5:00, 10:00
AMERICAN DREAM MTRCB PG-13 2:30, 7:30
4 CLICK MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
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2 CLICK 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:05 PG-13
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 R-13
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13

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DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10,10:30
AMERICAN DREAMZ PG13 1:35,3:50,6:05, 8:20,10:30
CLICK PG13 1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00
MORTUARY R13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND R13 1:35,3:45,5:55, 8:05,10:15
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CINEMA 5: SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 10:30, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10 R-13
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Readers react

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LET'S GIVE WAY TO SOME REactions from readers:

From a broadcast colleague: "I liked your review of 'Square Off.' I agree that the debate format makes **Mike Defensor** and **Chiz Escudero** too square.

"I also agree that texters shouldn't rate them as if ... after a class recitation."

(NUT: We hope that, the next time we catch "Square Off," its rigorous format shall have been relaxed and opened up to more dynamic possibilities, to make better use of Defensor and Escudero's plus points.)

From film buff **Chito R. Garrido** of Makati City: "The success of Cinemalaya festival is worthy of praise, because it has led to the revival of Filipino movies. But I think that the entries' use of established movie stars runs counter to the festival's goal of providing a showcase for new talents. I think this should include actors, too."

(NUT: Yes, new actors should also be given a break by playing important roles in Cinemalaya entries. And, indeed, this was the case in some Cinemalaya entries—**Andy Bais** in "Saan Nagtatago si Happiness?" **Angeli Bayani** in "Huling Araw ng Linggo," etc.

On the other hand, *some* star value is needed to attract viewers especially in these star-oriented parts. So, it's a juggling act.

Also, some new directors may need more experienced film actors to help galvanize their productions, or give them badly needed "texture." If *everybody* involved in a production is a new talent, the risk of not achieving *artistic* success could be increased.

But you're right: New filmmakers should exert greater effort to develop and showcase fresh talents. Perhaps the best strategy would be to reserve lead roles for relative newcomers, but to give stars important roles to play, so they can provide stellar support for the new talents.)

Finally, a prospective festival entrant asks: "When is the deadline for the submission of stories to the 2007 Cinemalaya film festival? I want to join and don't want to miss the deadline."

(NUT: We've gotten in touch with Cinemalaya chair **Laurice Guillen**, and she informs us that the deadline is on Sept. 7.

Three-page synopses should be submitted to the Film Division of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. For details, call 833-1125, and ask for the Film Division.

From books to movies

OF THE FIVE films nominated for best picture in the 2005 Oscars, three ("Munich," "Capote," "Brokeback Mountain") were preceded by their novels/short story. Moviemakers often refer to books for materials for their films because of novels' universal appeal and emphatic stories and characters.

At the Manila International Book Fair (Aug. 31-Sept. 4) at the World Trade Center, Pasay City, TV/movie tie-in books abound. For instance, **John Grisham** novels have been blockbuster hits—"The Firm," "The Pelican Brief," "The Client," "A Time To Kill," "The Rainmaker" and "Runaway Justice." **Michael Crichton** has also had his share of hits—"Jurassic Park," "The Odyssey" and "Ulysses."

Time and again, classics have been adapted into films—"To Kill A Mockingbird," "A Room With A View," "Sense And Sensibility," "Great Expectations" and "Les Miserables."

Locally, **Lualhati Bautista**'s "Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa?" and "Dekada 70" became blockbuster films. *Komiks* have also provided much material for the big screen, like "Dyesebel," "Darna," "Lastikman" and the upcoming "Zsazsa Zaturnnah."

With "Make It A Habit" for its theme, the 27th Manila International Book Fair once again unites local and foreign publishers, wholesalers, retailers, book lovers, collectors, librarians, authors, publishers' representatives and other major players in the publishing industry in its continuing effort to promote books and reading. Call 890-0661 or email bookfair@primetradeasia.com.

ALCHRIS Galura and AA Fernandez in "Batad: Sa Paang Palay"

Arriving via . . .

From page E1

Palay," where he plays a mountain kid who dreams of owning a pair of hiking shoes.

He is now working on an entry in the Cinema One Originals digital film fest, Ed Lejano's "Xerox," where he portrays a mute.

You started as a child star?

I was 9 when I made my first movie, "Alamid," with my uncle Dan Alvaro.

Since then, you've made only indies?

Compared to commercial movies, indie films provide more freedom of expression. Also, there are too many distractions on the set of a commercial movie. Too many fans.

How do you prepare for a role?

I read the script, put myself in my character's place. I could relate with Jojo in "Pusang Gala" because I'm also very playful. In "Sarong Banggi," I was Jade, the most serious in the gang. I couldn't shake him off.

You bring your characters home?

I tried it with Jade, to see if people would notice it. My family didn't, but my classmates were bothered when I stopped being a clown.

What was it like shooting "Batad"?

It was physically challenging, hiking up and down the mountains. We'd finish at midnight and wake up at 4 a.m. I carried the camera around since we lacked crew people.

What was it like winning Best Actor at Cinemalaya?

I feel so blessed. I thought Sid Lucero (of "Donsol") would win.

Indie films provide more freedom of expression

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5. It won Best Picture and Best Actress at the 8th OSIAN Cine Fan Festival of Asian Cinema.
6. The Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB) graded it A, the 1st for 2006.
7. It is officially selected to screen in the 50th London Film Festival, 51st Valladolid International Film Festival, 31st Toronto International Film Festival, 11th Pusan International Film Festival, 20th Hawaii International Film Festival, 30th Sao Paulo International Film Festival, 25th Vancouver International Film Festival, 33rd Brussels Independent Film Festival, 27th Thessaloniki International Film Festival, 6th Mumbai Asian Film Festival, 7th Rome Asiatica Film Mediale and then 2nd Antalya Eurasian Film Festival
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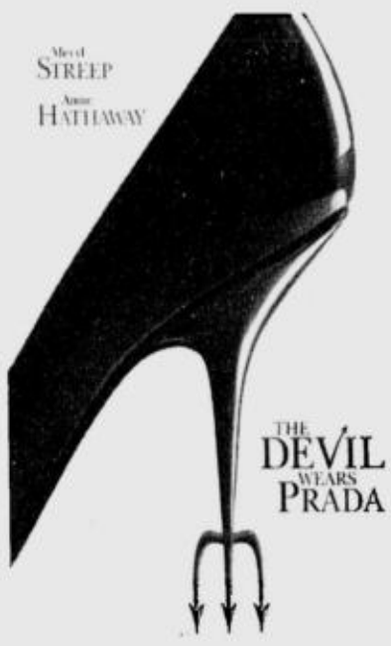

KIM Flores

Five golds for Kim

SHE WON FIVE golds in the recently concluded Olympics for performers — the World Championships of the Performing Arts in Hollywood—and the 15 year-old Kim Flores says she will forever value the experience.

"I was nervous and did not know what to expect," Kim says. "I just wanted to do my best."

Clearly, the judges were impressed when she delivered her winning pieces in the Gospel, Broadway, Pop and Original Song categories (Junior Division).

Plus, she also got a gold signifying the Industry Award for Music (Over All Junior Division).

Kim is an Ivory Music recording artist and recently released her debut album, "Something at First Sight."

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BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 6:55/ 9:20	KUBRADOR 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00	OH MY GHOST 12:30 / 2:40 / 4:50	
ANT BULLY 12:50 / 2:50 / 4:50	CLICK 12:25 / 2:45 / 5:05 / 7:25 / 9:45	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20
MIAMI VICE 6:50 / 9:40	SUKOB 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20		

MALL 5

1	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30	MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30	BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 12:15 / 3:05 / 5:55 / 8:45
4	SUKOB 1:10 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10	OH MY GHOST 11:25 / 1:35 / 3:45 / 5:55 / 8:05	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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URBANDUB

Let's have more of Rockestra

By Pocholo Concepcion, *Contributor*
Photos by Ryan Lim

FUN WAS THE OVERWHELMING VIBE Friday night at the "Rockestra II" concert, featuring the Manila Symphony Orchestra (MSO) jamming with six rock bands at Tanghalang Francisco Balagtas, CCP Complex.

A lingering image is that of a young female clarinet player of the MSO swaying her head to the beat of an Itchyworms tune while waiting to play her part. The audience's every applause was accompanied by a roar of approval, especially for the orchestra's crescendos.

Is this proof that so-called boundaries between classical and contemporary music are really non-existent? The answer is yes.

REVIEW

The only requirement for appreciation is an open mind and sharp ears. That way, new perspectives emerge, like the way a brooding passage from the violin section enhances the emotions in the songs of Urbandub. Or the way a lilting phrase from the horn section adds bounce to the playfulness of Itchyworms' music.

Playing three songs each, the bands didn't sound their usual selves. They deliberately avoided playing too loud, and dispensed with extended guitar solos, to make ample room for MSO to shine.

Cautious

But the orchestra seemed a bit cautious of flying too high, preferring to focus on the middle or last parts of the numbers, rather than letting its instrumentalists dominate the performances.

Of course, MSO conductor Arturo Molina has his reasons for enforcing restraint. Control is apparently an important mark in leading an orchestra, and every player must have discipline.

Then again, wouldn't it be nice to hear—next time, and every year thenceforth, as the emcees announced—maybe a fully rearranged batch of songs that doesn't have to rival the aural majesty of the Beatles' "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" album, but just maybe something that would knock down a hard-boiled rock fan and prod him or her to shout, "Bravo!"

On Friday night, it was Itchyworms that had the MSO basking in the freshness of the whole jam, the sound of wind and brass beautifully transporting happy feelings in between tongue-in-cheek lyrics about teenage love.

Up Dharma Down challenged conventions, owing to the complexity of melding its intricate material and the MSO's own detailed arrangements. On the other hand, Hale demonstrated that lining its sentimental sound with a dash of MSO's weeping phrases could be a breeze.

The Dawn provided the finale that bore good tidings for future "Rockestras." Vocalist Jett Pangan had a blast dancing in front of a cello player, as guitarist Francis Reyes let off some heavy metal-inspired licks—while remaining restrained so that those at the back row could hear the chamber-like orchestral drone.

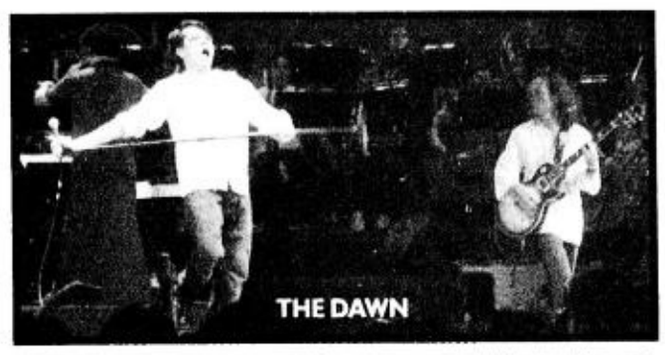
Endorsements

On a lighter note, comedian Jon Santos tested his Armida "Tita Midz" Macarena character and bowled over the predominantly college crowd. His parody of the Teeth's "Laklak" had its lyrics fitting snugly into the melody of "Magtanim Ay Di Biro"!

Of the video-taped messages (the dean of the UP College of Music, the presidents of the CCP and OPM, leading musical directors, etc.) endorsing "Rockestra," the words of Mitch Valdes struck the most resounding note: Everything has been done before, as in 'Jesus Christ Superstar." It's a good thing kids today are experimenting again, and with Filipino music and lyrics to boot.

That said, the "Rockestra" series deserves more encores.

HALE



THE DAWN

ITCHYWORMS

6CYCLEMIND GARRIE DAVID

IT'S NOT what it seems. It's a comedy skit that ends with Ogie Alcasid (left).

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

EULA Valdez likes what she's watching.

A POLE dance number, too!

Ah, Vina!

ONLY THIS one could have pulled off such a show in these parts—belly dance, pole dance, hip hop, acrobatics on a tilted bed.
She was beautiful and well-draped, too, according to INQUIRER lensman Rudy Esperas, who says he stopped counting the star's costume changes after a few numbers.
And by the way, he adds, Vina Morales truly can sing.
"Showgirl," held Friday night at the Araneta Coliseum to mark her 20th anniversary in the biz, might as well have been this veteran's way of showing peers how to stage a major show.

JIGGLING it with guest Jay-R

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Pro Activ	Nickelodeon					Sentro Pasalubong	Letty La Mas Fea		Doble Cara		Philippine Idol Exclusive	Wow Mating Mall Bites		Totoo TV		Big News	TNA	Philippine Idol Exclusive
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Zenki	Yakitate! Japan	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning		Sa Piling Mo	My Girl	A Love To Kill	Bandila	Ok Fine Oh Yes!	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		The Thomas Crown Affair					E Buzz	Pensando (Season III)		The Amazing Race 7		The Ultimate Fighter		Numb3rs (Season 2)		House (Season II)		Nip/ Tuck	
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends	The Simpsons	Samurai Jack/ Sabrina/ Samurai Jack	PokeMon	Dice	Gundam Seed Destiny/ Shaman King	The Simpsons/ Courage The Cowardly Dog	Teen Titans/ The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Justice League Unlimited/ The Simpsons	The Batman/ Aqua Teen Hunger Force/ Sealab 2021	X-Men Evolution/ Gundam Seed	Static Shock/ Shaman King
Cinemax		Madison (3:05 PM)				Invincible (4:50 PM)			Prohpet (6:25 PM)			Pterodactyl			Van Helsing				Buffalo Soldiers
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	World Report			
CrimeSuspense		What Should You Do?		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Masterminds	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Prison Break		Prison Break		Cold Case	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-Brkatve Bunny	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World of Disney			Black Hole High	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody		Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World of Disney
ESPN		Cheerleading Jr. Div 2001	The Beautiful Century: 100 Yrs of FIFA	Asian X Games '06 - Inline Vert	Asian X Games '06 - Inline Street	World Tenpin Masters 05		Watersports Programming Hot Water		Philips Singapore Cup Vs. Melbourne Vs. Malaysia				Sportscenter Asia	LPGA Golf: Safeway Classic Presented by Pepsi 4th rd				Sportscenter Asia
ETC	Friends 10	Beauty And The Geek 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Project Runaway 2		Quiz Eye For The Straight Guy		America's Next Top Model 5		ET Weekend	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	The Biggest Loser 2		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Benediction And Devotion	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Bible Treasure Chest	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	G.K. Chesterton: The Apostle Of Common Sense II	Threshold Of Hope		Sunday Night With [Encore] Fr Benedict Groeschel		Daily Mass		Holy Land/ Rosary/ Angelus	Good Or Evil: Who Decides?	The Gospel Of John	Freedom & Authority	Catholic Compass	
Fox News		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In	Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Asawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pambatang (3:45 PM)		Sayuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:15 PM)		Majika		I Luv NY (8:50 PM)	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Lapol Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B.Eye II		Midsomer Murders (5:45 PM)		Strong Medicine		Hustle		Judging Amy					
HBO			As Good As It Gets							Jo Good Company (7:15 PM)				Curb Your Enthusiasm 05: Interior Decorator	Curb Your Enthusiasm 06: The Wire	Curb Your Enthusiasm 07: Aamco	Curb Your Enthusiasm 08: Beloved Aunt	Entourage 07: The Scene	Entourage 08: New York (11:25PM)
Hero TV	Gamburagar	Rune Soldier	Duel Masters	Super Gals	Mimmo de Pon	Sugar The Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	BDaman Bakugoden	Beyblade G-Revolution	Gamburagar	Rune Soldier	Naruto
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Knusada Kontra Krimen		Japan Video Topics/ Anims		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines		EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Raw				Cinema Tech	Evolver	Beat The Geeks	Street Smarts	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Jack Yard	Monday Movie Madness	Japan Video Topics/ Anims			The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Get Color	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	Embellish This	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Food 911	El Extra 101 Most Awesome Moments In Entertainment		NY Fashion Week	Martha		Radical Sabbatical	Genuine Article	Good Finds	Style Star
MTV Philippines		Wildboyz	8th & Ocean	MTV Hits	MTV Hits					Get Spotted	Desayed: A Pro-Social Special	TRL		Wildboyz	8th & Ocean	MTV Live: Kelly Wes In Toronto	Handpicked Kyla	MTV Hits	Brand New
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXlog	MYX Finals	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mobile MYX Top Picks		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backlinx	MYXlog
National Geographic	Wild Orphans	National Geographic Specials		Naked Science		The Living Edens		Top 5 - England Unveiled		WOW! Cancerous Encounters. Countdown Crocs		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Naked Science: Human Technology		The Living Edens: Cameroon/Nile - America's Wild West	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Addp.			Divas Ka, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ Ley Landi & Angelique Lazo		Timong Bayon (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition		Dial M		Fantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-Ala Sal Dating Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	Ang Mga Nagsi-Ala Sal Dating Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Tomorrow Today
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
Qtv	Goodluck	Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)	RPN Aksyon News	Moms		Phoenix	Irene	Fireworks	Damo	Project 11	H2O Hahaha...Over!		News On Q	Sapulso		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapabd Show			Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Scare Tactics	Movie Monday					Newswatch Now	Go Negosyo		Carpe For Truth
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports								2006 FIBA World C'Ships Games. France vs Nigeria				2006 FIBA World C'ships Games. Germany vs Spain				Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access		
Sports Plus			Inside the PGA	Golf Today	Nopi Tunervision	UFC Special: Ultimate Ken Shamrock				Party Poker.com World Open 2005				World Game		Boeing Greater Seattle Classic Finals			
Star Movies				Uptown Girls (4:10 PM)			Mortal Thoughts (5:45 PM)				Faultline			Robocop			Rahsaan (10:00PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Desperate Housewives		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	My Wife And Kids	Still Standing	Yes Dear	Becker	For Better Or Worse		Seinfeld	My Wife And Kids
Studio 23		Yu-Gi-Oh				Batman Beyond	Dragon Booster	Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	The 8th Annual Teen Choice Awards					News Central	America's Next Top Model (10:45PM)		Travel Time

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

ENTERTAINMENT / D1

Pollywood: Ogie mum about annulment moves

ACROSS / A13

Chavit Singson wants Poro Point contract nullified

WORLD / A20

Israeli anger grows over conduct of Lebanon war

SPORTS / A21

Tiger collects first 'Major' dozen in style at PGA Championship

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Palparan: Let people decide on 'berdugo' tag

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MAJ. GEN. JOVITO PALPARAN IS RIDING INTO the sunset next month with a lot of unfinished business in the war on communist insurgents but has hardly any regrets on being tagged a *berdugo* (butcher) for the killings of activists being blamed on him.

"(The *berdugo* tag) is just in the minds of the

LET PEOPLE/ A8

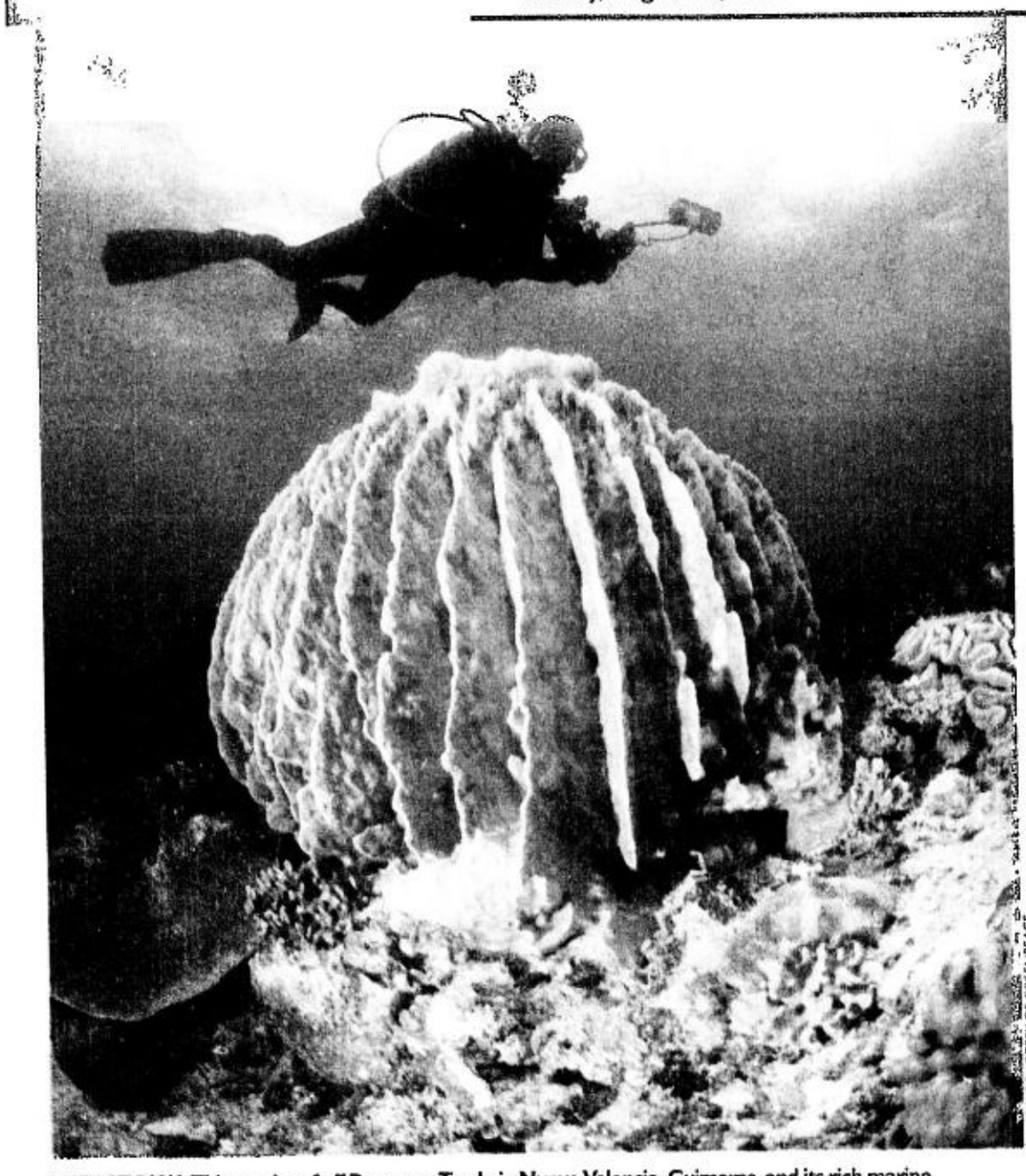

PHOTO COURTESY OF GREENPEACE

REEF AT RISK: This coral reef off Barangay Tando in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, and its rich marine biodiversity face threats of serious environmental damage if the oil spill from a sunken tanker spreads further.

Probe body a coverup –Pimentel

Says only GMA can stop killings

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Philip C. Tubeza

MAJ. GEN. JOVITO PALparan is casting a dark shadow over the Melo Commission.

A day after he was named head of the panel that will investigate the rash of killings of leftist leaders and journalists, former Supreme Court Associate Justice Jose Melo, 74, has yet to issue a statement on his appointment.

But for Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the creation by President Macapagal-Arroyo of the commission was a meaningless exercise for as long as she idolized Palparan; called a "butcher" by human rights activists and leftists.

Palparan has been blamed by militant groups for the disappearances and executions of anti-Arroyo activists. The commander of the 7th Infantry Division, who is due to retire next month, has denied the allegations. *(Story above.)*

Lacson said Ms Arroyo's State of the Nation Address on July 24 "heaping praises" on Palparan for his counterinsurgency campaign and urging him "to go ahead with what he was doing and not to backtrack was not only ominous to victims. It was, in fact, an open declaration of support for one of

PROBE/ A8

LYN RILLON/RTAN LIM

NINOY RITES: President Macapagal-Arroyo attends Mass at the Edsa Shrine in a gesture of reconciliation with her rivals, while former President Corazon Aquino visits her husband's tomb in Parañaque.

₱100-M bond for oil cleanup sought from Petron, shipper

By Blanche S. Rivera
in Manila
and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

DESPITE PETRON CORP.'S COMmitment to support a cleanup, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has started looking into the liability of the oil company and Sunshine Maritime Development Corp. for the massive oil spill in Guimaras Strait.

The Philippine Coast Guard is contemplating a more drastic measure.

Frustrated over the slow response to the oil spill on the part of Petron and Sunshine Maritime, PCG station chief Cmdr. Harold Jarder said the PCG would require the two companies to post a bond of P100 million to pay for the cleanup.

Petron and Sunshine Maritime should also pay for the fuel expenses of Coast Guard ships, which had reached P10 million in just a week of cleanup operations, Jarder said.

"No amount of cleanup will suffice. We can't sleep as long as the tanker is still there," Jarder, on-scene commander in the cleanup operations, said during a meeting with officials of the province and city of Iloilo yesterday.

Initial reports have it that the oil spill, the second in the country in less than a year, could cause massive pollution in violation of Republic Act No. 9275 or the Clean Water Act.

"There is a violation, of course, but when you file the case, you have to have complete documents. It cannot be half-baked ... We're still assessing the damage because it could be more than what we see now," Armi Jane Borje, environment

P100-M BOND/ A8

Cory prays for Gloria, as she did for Marcos

By Jocelyn R. Uy
Metro

ON THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY yesterday of opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino's assassination, his widow prayed for President Macapagal-Arroyo in the same manner she said she did for the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

In remarks at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City, former President Corazon Aquino recalled her husband's acts of selflessness during the martial law years.

"I used to ask Ninoy why he

CORY/ A15

Video games tapped in fight against cancer

SAN FRANCISCO—VIDEO games are being treated as serious medicine in the battle against health woes ranging from obesity to cancer and dementia.

Several hundred US game developers, medical workers and government policymakers were set to collaborate in Maryland in September at the Games for Health project devoted to putting video games in the US medicine chest.

"We think there is a huge potential for games to be used for good," said Richard

VIDEO/ A8

5 youths raise hope with voters' drive

By Gerry Lirio

FIVE YOUNG FRIENDS WANT to prove that former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. did not die in vain by spearheading a campaign to get the youth out to vote for the country's next political leaders.

They have formed a group to launch "Voices," which aims to persuade close to 20 million young men and women to register as voters with the Commission on Elections, anytime from today up to the yearend deadline, so they can cast their ballots in the 2007 elections and thereafter.

Calling themselves the "Edsa II Babies," they are honor students Levie Cequeña, 25, Jay-Ryan Trinidad, 20, and CP Calma, 23, and Harvey Keh, 27, and Jaymee de la Cruz, 21, who have graduated with honors.

The group is not endorsing any candidate. Nor is it backed by any political figure. All its members want is for other young men and women to get out, register and vote. They noted that in the 2004 elections, millions of youths did not vote because they failed to register.

Cequeña, a law student at the Ateneo de Manila University, said

5 YOUTHS/ A15

RAIN-SWEPT leftist protesters gather at the Ninoy Aquino monument in Makati City to commemorate the former senator's martyrdom and condemn the spate of political killings. EDWIN BACASMAS

Stigma of nursing test leak haunts jobseekers

By Christian V. Esguerra

FOLLOWING REPORTS THAT TEST QUESTIONS in the nursing board exams in June had been leaked to probably thousands of examinees, quite a number of those who passed the licensure exam are having a hard time landing jobs in hospitals, particularly in Metro Manila.

Some hospitals are reportedly rejecting outright job applicants who earned their right to practice nursing after passing the controversial exams. In other hospitals, some trainees from the same batch reportedly got kicked out following complaints from patients who refused to receive nursing care from them.

"We can't really blame the patients or the hospitals because they have reason to be worried," said Jerome Mansibang, a nursing graduate of the University of the Philippines and owner of the 3-year-old Edgeworth Review Center in Manila.

Mansibang said at least 15 nursing graduates, who had enrolled in his review center to prepare for the June exams, had been turned away by various hospitals.

The scandal has sullied the integrity of the licensure exams that hospitals and patients aren't taking any chances even if the new nurses had been given provisional

STIGMA/ A6

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Western Visayas will experience monsoon rains becoming frequent over the western sections of Central and Southern Luzon and Western Visayas which may trigger flash floods and landslides. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/08/21/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Impeachment case buried today

By Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS CALENdared for plenary action today the committee on justice report junking the second impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo for insufficiency of substance.

With the impeachment complaint against the President set to be "buried" today, the House could turn its attention to Charter change (Cha-cha), Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said yesterday.

Nograles said administration congressmen were only six votes shy of the 195 needed for the House to constitute itself into a constituent assembly to revise the 1987 Constitution without the Senate's participation.

"Cha-cha now has a better chance and we might have it before October ends. We could have the plebiscite by November or December and then have an interim parliament by January," he said.

Nograles said he would take action on the committee report as soon as he receives it from the justice committee.

"I will schedule it for plenary debate and voting as soon as possible because this is provided by law as our constitutional duty as Congress members," he said.

"It's not just an ordinary report. It must be treated with dispatch," he added.

Nograles called on the minority to graciously accept defeat after it bungled the second attempt in two years to unseat the President over charges she stole the vote in 2004, muzzled dissent, abetted extrajudicial killings and received "jueteng" kickbacks.

Noting the minority had miserably failed to muster the 78 signatures needed to overturn the committee action and send the complaint to the Senate for trial, Nograles extended the administration's "hand of reconciliation, cooperation and collaboration so we can move this country forward."

"We should all reconcile. But it takes two to tango. The President has been dancing alone because the opposition has so far refused to accept past offers to reconcile. I hope and pray that this time they will please, please accept (it)," said the Davao lawmaker.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said the opposition only "had themselves to blame for not gaining enough votes to support their cause."

"The majority bloc won the vote and we did not lose the battle for public opinion. The nation saw on television that we gave the opposition every opportunity and adequate time to argue and debate based on the rules of the House," said De Venecia.

"I think all the anxiety and agony that everyone has to go through—and the poisonous exchange of incendiary remarks by both sides—will now come to an end so that the nation can move forward," the Speaker said.

But the opposition, although greatly outnumbered and defeated, seemed reluctant to bite the bullet.

The opposition suspects the House majority is cooking up a plot to shame it once the impeachment is killed in the chamber.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos fired the first shot yesterday, accusing the majority of hatching a plan to "systematically purge" the opposition from all "positions of influence" in the House, whether as chair or vice chair of regular and special committees.

Marcos told reporters the "shame campaign" was part of the President's instruction to "exterminate" the impeachment complaint as soon as it reached the plenary for deliberation.

Marcos said the administration allies may have "gone overboard by their abuse of legislative powers" in passionately defending Ms Arroyo at all costs.

Officers poised to resign

A "CRITICAL MASS" OF MILItary and police officers is poised to turn their backs on their Commander in Chief, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The group calling itself the Nationalist Officers Union of the Armed Forces of the Philippines gave an interview yesterday somewhere in Metro Manila to divulge their plan to resign.

They claimed to have about "two-thirds" of the estimated 12,000 AFP Officers Corps and many officers from the Philippine National Police on their side.

"We have the critical mass," said an Army colonel who spoke on condition of anonymity so as not to upset the plan.

He said they would hand in their resignations all at the same time in the event the House of Representatives threw out the second impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo during today's plenary session.

"They (officers) have been preparing for this, depending on the outcome of the impeachment hearing. But there might still be a miracle, we can't say yet," the colonel said.

A sergeant from the Army's First Scout Ranger Regiment, who also spoke on condition he not be named, said they were ready to push through with their resignations despite the risk of being booted out of the service.

"We don't like what's happening anymore," he said, adding that even noncommissioned officers like himself were planning to resign.

"Like a volcano, you will see the smoke first. That's the sign it's going to erupt," he said.

He said the group had been working on the mass resignation option since last year.

Dona Z. Pazzibugan

Reds courting media – Gonzales

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER NORberto Gonzales yesterday warned against possible communist infiltration of the country's newsrooms.

"There are big possibilities in the media that there are some practitioners being courted by enemies of the state and probably successfully," said Gonzales at the state-sponsored "Kapihan ng Bayan" at Sulo Hotel.

"We are profiling everybody as you (the media) are profiling us," he said.

"What will be controversial is the action of the government. But so far, you have observed that the government has not in anyway clamped down on media. Our attitude is that these are additional challenges to us," Gonzales said.

Gonzales said that media had always been a primary target of the communist movement anywhere in the world because of its emphasis on propaganda.

"It's hard to say that there is no attempt to infiltrate media here. Media practitioners are either mercenaries or sympathizers who will continue to create issues even though they know if they are helping the leftist cause," he said.

Gonzales claimed that he had proof of the rising influence of the left in news headlines but he did not show this. Gonzales admitted though that these communist sympathizers in media were only a few.

"But (what is important) is not in terms of their numbers or percentage but if they are able to present their view effectively," said Gonzales.

Gonzales had a hand in the President's declaration of a state of national emergency in February, which sent a chilling effect across media with the raid on The Daily Tribune, known for its irreverent coverage of the administration.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, meanwhile, called on Gonzales to come up with names instead of issuing a sweeping statement.

"At a time when journalists are being killed, it is irresponsible to say something that might lead to a witchhunt among the ranks of journalists," NUJP's Joe Torres said in an interview.

"Are we going back to the days of McCarthyism when just about anybody was being suspected of being a communist? Besides, being a communist is no longer a crime unless one takes up arms to bring down the government," Torres said.

Aside from making journalists a target in the anti-insurgency campaign, Torres said Gonzales' statement was likely to have a chilling effect on news people and even on their respective media entities.

"Journalists might stop writing about the ills of government for fear of being branded.... That is a violation of our freedom of the press," Torres said. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

RP women take case to UN

NEW YORK CITY—MEMBERS OF THE Philippine women's movement presented cases of the Philippine government's alleged gross violations of women's rights to a United Nations forum here last week.

Twenty-three international experts took the Philippine government to task for failing to address poverty and political repression and for its "uncritical support" of the persistent culture of machismo in the institutions of media, education, law and religion.

The women spoke during the 36th Session of the Committee on the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women on Aug. 14. The body was chaired by former Philippine Ambassador Rosario Manalo.

Rosa Presno of the Rural Women's Coalition cited experiences of many rural women who had carried the burden of poverty for decades.

Their quality of life had dramatically declined due to trade liberalization policies, resulting in huge drops in the prices of rice, corn, livestock, fisheries and other basic produce, Presno said.

Unable to secure any capital resource, the rural women had left their families to work abroad, she added.

Malou Alcid of the Kanlungan Center Foundation said Filipino migrant women workers, who comprise half the total number of 8 million overseas Filipino workers and who remit billions of dollars to their families, could not even rely on health and death benefits from the government upon their return to the Philippines.

With President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent announcement of turning women OFWs into "super maids," the government seemed bent on securing the domestic work market for Filipinos worldwide although no agreements have been forged with receiving countries to protect them, Alcid said.

Another representative, Maureen Pagaduan, described the conditions of ethnic minority women, 61 percent of whom live in Mindanao.

The mostly Moro women fared lowest in all indices of human development, aggravated not only by government neglect but also by government-led armed interventions, she said.

On women's reproductive health and sexual rights, lawyer Clara Rita Padilla of Engendered Rights lamented the government's failure to respond to women's health choices of contraception, which have caused unwanted pregnancies and deaths from unsafe abortions.

Rep. Liza Masa of Gabriela raised the women's growing concern over political repression and killings. Among the 700 reported victims of killings were women and Gabriela members, she said.

The NGO delegates' participation was facilitated by the UN Development Fund for Women through its country program coordinator, Luz Lopez Rodriguez.

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IOM ends evacuation aid to OFWs with truce

By Volt Contreras

WITH THE CEASEFIRE IN LEBANON NOW holding for over a week, the International Organization for Migration has officially halted the "mass evacuation" of foreign nationals who want to leave the war-battered country, the IOM office in Manila said yesterday.

IOM project manager Ida Mae Fernandez said that since "it's already peacetime, the usual immigration procedures" would apply to people who want to leave Lebanon.

"We have stopped our bus convoys from Beirut to Damascus," she said, adding that her office received this communication from the Beirut office last Saturday. By that time, most, if not all, Filipinos who had volunteered to be repatriated had already crossed to Damascus.

"There is no more danger; mobility is free and safe and no longer requiring security escorts. We have reverted back to (normal) immigration controls," Fernandez said.

Of the 13,000 foreign nationals from 15 countries helped by IOM, around 3,600 were Filipinos as of yesterday, she reported.

The crisis in Lebanon has not affected the global deployment of overseas Filipino workers whose numbers grew by 6.8 percent in the first eight months of the year, according to Labor Secretary Arturo Brion.

Citing figures from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Brion said there were 697,735 OFWs deployed from Jan. 1 to Aug. 10, compared to the 653,268 deployed last year.

Meanwhile, some 27 Filipino returnees, possibly the last batch of OFWs to flee wartorn Lebanon, arrived yesterday on two separate commercial flights funded by the IOM.

Most of them left Lebanon soon after a United Nations-implemented ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah militants took effect last week.

And still, like their compatriots who had returned to the Philippines earlier, they brought with them many stories—usually heartbreaking.

Encarlina Disond, 30, endured being called *aso* (dog) for two months by her employer, a Lebanese judge whose wife worked as a television reporter.

When the war broke out last month, she asked for permission to go home. Her employer answered by kicking her, causing her to fall and hurt herself.

Disond escaped with the help of a kind Lebanese neighbor who drove her to the Philippine Embassy.

Cecilia Pascua, 41, however, said she didn't have any problems with her Lebanese employer.

"She even gave me a month's salary in advance before she left for Canada a few weeks ago," Pascua said.

Her problems began when she stayed at the house of her employer's son-in-law. She and her companions were not allowed to sit down even if they had finished their work.

Having had enough of the son-in-law's cruelty, Pascua asked permission to go back to the Philippines, telling him that President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered a total evacuation of Filipinos out of Lebanon.

Before letting her go, the man took back half of the $200 advance she had received from her employer.

"He said that since I worked for him for only a month, I should give back $100," Pascua said. *With Nikko Dizon and Jerome Aning*

Still no room in detention for former Marine chief

THERE IS STILL NO ROOM FOR EX-MARINE commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda at the Navy custodial center in Fort Bonifacio, where 12 Marine officers implicated in the Feb. 24 coup plot against President Macapagal-Arroyo are being held.

A Navy spokesperson said yesterday the facility was "not yet ready" for Miranda.

A staff house at the Bonifacio Naval Station compound had been converted to a custodial center for the Marine officers who are under investigation for their complicity in the attempted coup and a possible court-martial.

Col. Ariel Querubin, former 1st Marine Brigade commander and one of the alleged instigators of the coup, was brought to the staff house on Aug. 17. The 11 other Marine officers linked to the plot have been held there since Aug. 7.

Miranda, meanwhile, continues to be restricted to his quarters in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

"His transfer is still being studied because the place is too small for all of them," said Navy spokesperson Cmdr. Giovanni Bacordo.

Bacordo said the Marine officers were free to roam around the BNS compound. If they had to leave it for any reason, they had to get the permission of the camp commander, he said.

The Marines' situation is a far cry from that of the 18 Army Scout Ranger officers under Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim who had been likewise linked to the Feb. 24 coup plot. The Rangers have been detained at a maximum security facility at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, since July.

But Army spokesperson Maj. Ernesto Torres Jr. could not say why six other Ranger officers also being investigated for the attempted coup had not been detained.

Torres said 29 of the 125 Scout Ranger enlisted personnel under investigation were also at Camp Capinpin while the rest remained under the custody of their unit commanders. *Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

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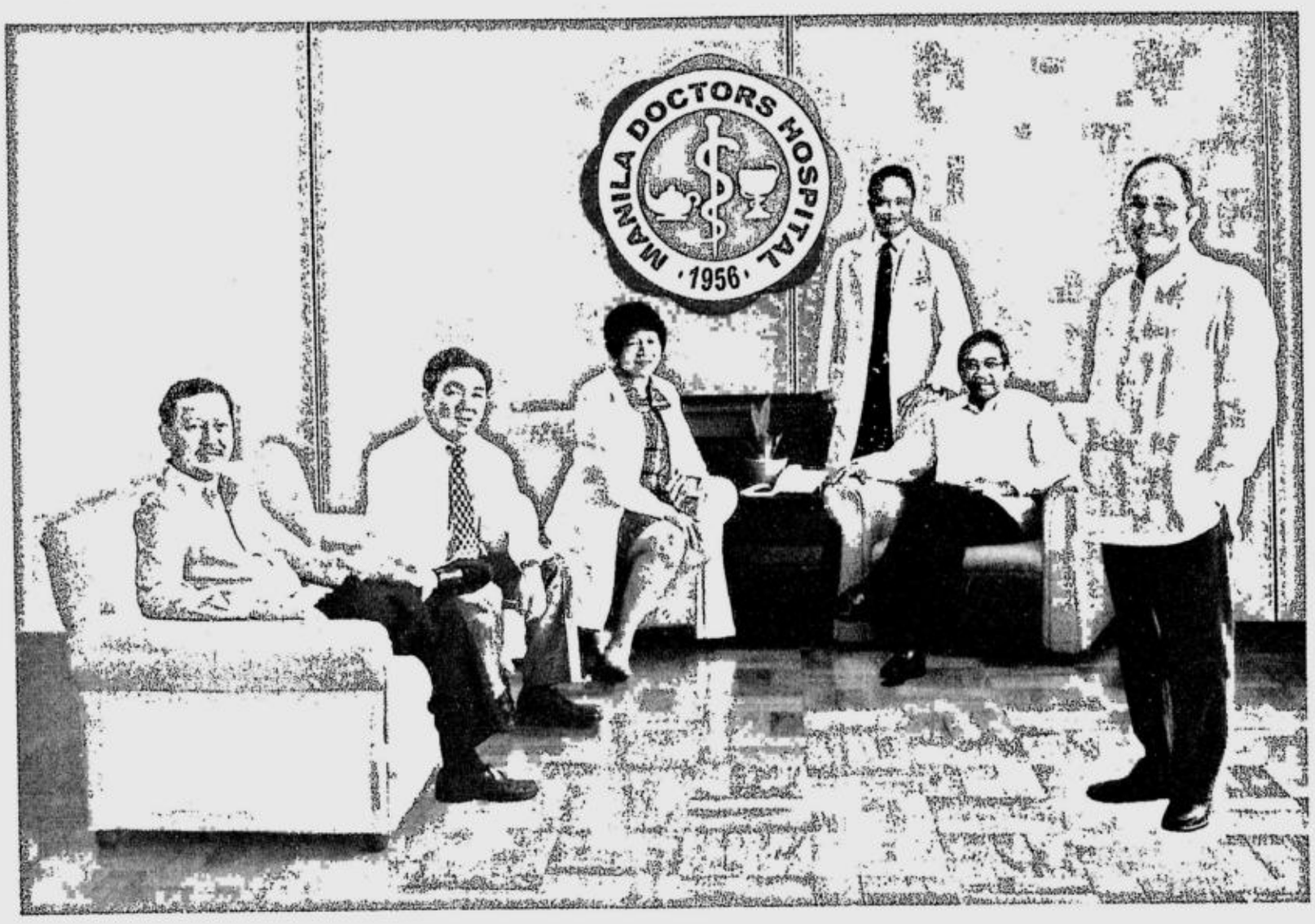

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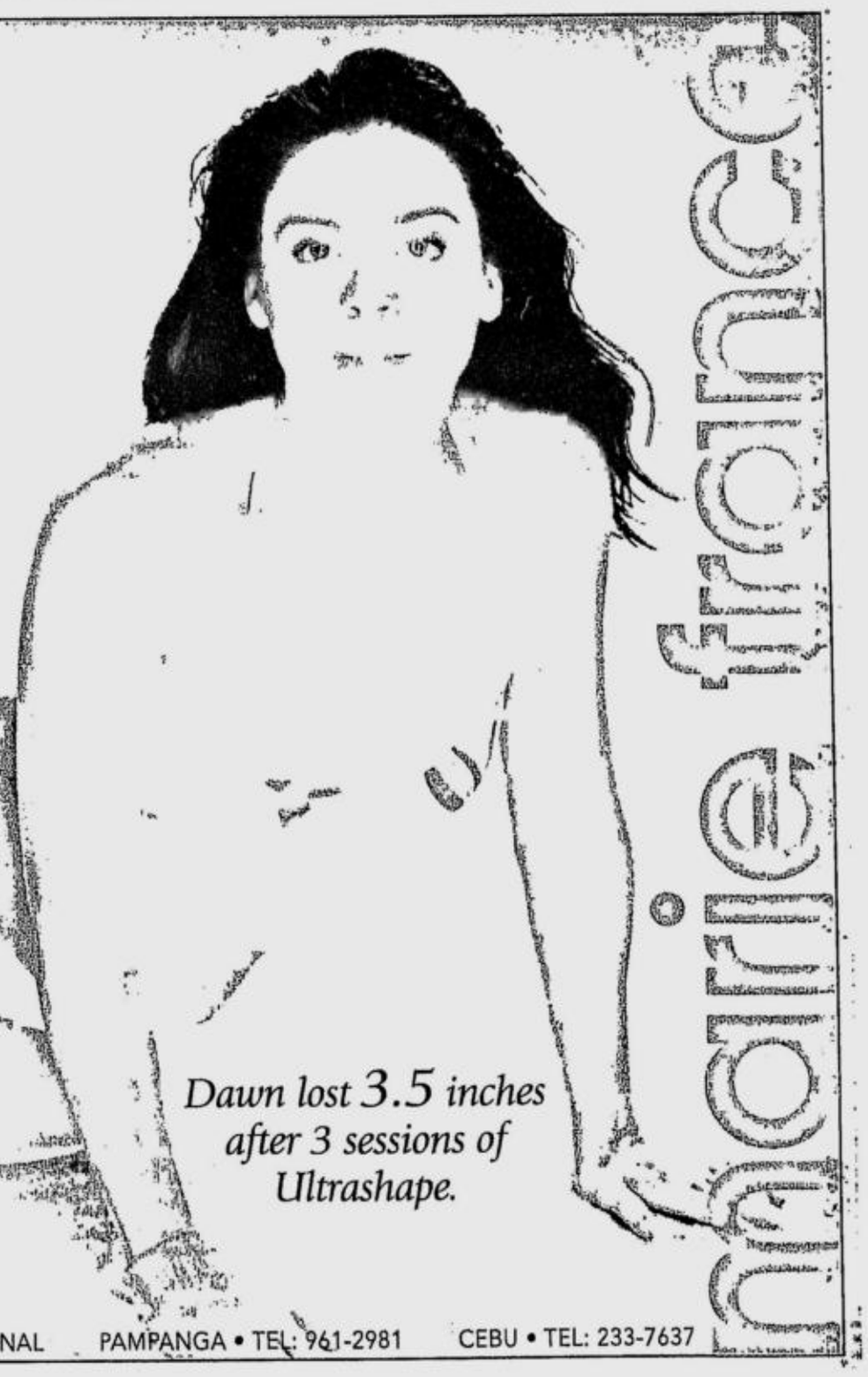

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Cebu Pacific Air seeks fare hike

CEBU PACIFIC AIR—THE COUNTRY'S second largest airline in terms of fleet, sales and passenger volume—has asked the Civil Aeronautics Board to allow it to raise its domestic fares by 30 percent. This is on top of the fuel levy hike it has sought recently.

While its "Go Fares" will be retained at current levels, the airline is seeking the 30-percent hike for its non-promo routes. These are the Manila to Bacolod, Butuan, Cotabato, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Dipolog, Dumaguete, Davao, Iloilo, Kalibo, Laoag, Legazpi, Puerto Princesa, Roxas, Subic, Tacloban, Tagbilaran or Zamboanga flights; the Cebu to Davao, Iloilo or Zamboanga runs, and the Davao to Zamboanga or Iloilo (via Cebu) hops.

The current fares for these routes range from P2,588 to P3,868 one way, with the exception of Manila-Subic which is at P750.

The fare increase will be on top of the fuel surcharge hike Cebu Pacific recently sought for its domestic routes.

The budget carrier asked for fuel levy adjustments in six route segments—P140 more for its Luzon-Mindanao flights (currently at P850), P100 for Luzon-Visayas (currently at P620), P100 for routes within Luzon (currently at P450), P60 within the Visayas (currently at 400), P60 within Mindanao (currently at 550) and P60 for Visayas-Mindanao (currently at 550). *Riza T. Olchondra*

Militants: Rock n' roll no way to win people

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE ROCKIN' and rollin' ways of the Army, used as a way of winning people to the side of the military, drew flak from a leftist group.

"This shake, rattle and roll gimmick is really preposterous," said Gerry Albert Corpuz, information officer of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), in text messages to the INQUIRER yesterday.

Corpuz blamed the new tack on Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division operating in Central Luzon.

It was first seen at the party hosted by the 69th Infantry Battalion on Saturday night as part of the "anti-communist" seminar in this capital city.

In that "socialization," according to battalion commander Col. Ricardo Visaya, Army soldiers performed in a live band, danced with women, brought in dancers clad in sexy getups, and served beer, other drinks and a roasted calf while chatting the night away with residents and village officials.

"The villages are not beerhouses but that is the way Palparan treats them to win the hearts and minds of the people. Palparan and his men are like parasites destroying the simple, idyllic life of the people," Corpuz said.

Asked for a reaction, Visaya said: "The enemy has always been labeling the military as oppressors of the masses. The socialization in the City of San Fernando was one way to disprove this. It was an activity that proved the military has a friendly heart and does not instill fear as the enemy claims."

In Liliw, Laguna, meanwhile, a military official said bringing basic services to the poor in far-flung areas was more effective than combat operations in the fight against insurgency.

Providing socioeconomic services to the community is a better approach to lasting peace than guns, stressed Brig. General Jaime Buenaflor, deputy chief of staff for civil military operations (J7), who represented AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., during the launch of the Kalayaan Barangays Program or Kalahi in five pilot barangays in Liliw.

Kalahi seeks to rehabilitate and develop conflict-affected areas as part of the government's national peace plan.

Army Col. Francisco Delfin, battalion commander of the 1st IB based in the mountainous area of Laguna, said killing the insurgents and their militant supporters was not the genuine solution to the root causes of the insurgency.

Giving livelihood projects in the community and ensuring their sustainability would prove that the government was serious in its peace efforts, said Eddie Reyes, barangay chair of Kanlurang Bukal, one of the pilot barangays. *With Romulo Ponte, INQUIRER Southern Luzon*

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☐ Sept. 02 p.m.	2/Trial and Pre-Trial Skills 3/Updates in Substantive and Procedural Laws: SRC & Corporate Governance	Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval SEC Director Justina F. Callangan
☐ Sept. 09 a.m.	2/Legal Ethics 2/Updates in Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence: Constitutional Law	Justice Jose L. Sabio Jr. Prof. Harry H.L. Roque, Jr.
☐ Sept. 09 p.m.	3/Alternative Dispute Resolution 2/MCLE Prescribed Subject: Technology and the Law	Dean Custodio O. Parlade Atty. Ivan John E. Uy
☐ Sept. 16 a.m.	2/Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy 2/MCLE Prescribed Subject: New Rules and Jurisprudence in Family Law	Justice Ruben T. Reyes Atty. Melencio S. Sta. Maria
☐ Sept. 16 p.m.	2/Trial and Pre-Trial Skills 2/Legal Ethics	Justice Lucas P. Bersamin Justice Hilarion L. Aquino
☐ Sept. 23 a.m.	1/Update in Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence: Notarial Law 2/MCLE Prescribed Subjects: Forensic Evidence: DNA and Its Analysis	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino Dra. Raquel Del Rosario-Fortun
☐ Sept. 23 p.m.	2/Legal Ethics 2/Alternative Dispute Resolution 3/Updates in Criminal Law	Justice Hector L. Hofileña Dean Froilan M. Bacungan Justice Diosdado M. Peralta

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'Dream cities' offer better future for RP

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A PROGRAM called "Dream Cities" is planting seeds of hope for a bright tomorrow, according to Jesus Estanislao, president and chair of the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA).

The program on good governance and responsible citizenship started six years ago and is composed of the following cities: Calbayog, Cebu, Dumaguete, Iloilo, Marikina, Naga, Samal, San Fernando in La Union, San Fernando in Pampanga, Sorsogon, Tacurong, Tagaytay, Tagbilaran, Tangub and Toledo.

They are among the co-conveners of ISA in the "Mahal Ko ang Pilipinas (I Love the Philippines)" conference which will be held at the Philippine Plaza on Aug. 30.

What sets these cities apart is that their mayors have adopted the ISA's public governance system (PGS), taken from the Harvard Business School, and are trying to make it work.

The mayors and local officials are working with leaders to various sectors to meet their respective cities' visions and goals.

And this is no temporary setup or token gesture of consultation. Multisectoral coalitions have been created through local laws, ensuring their continuation even with changes in local leadership.

Tracking progress

The coalitions meet regularly to track the progress of the programs of the city governments and sectors.

The dream cities have the following goals: Calbayog is working on being "one island, one people, one culture"; Cebu, the "most livable city in Asia"; Dumaguete, "a center of sustainable development and quality holistic education"; Iloilo, "a premier city"; Marikina, "a world-class city"; and the Island Garden City of Samal, "an urban center in a rural setting."

San Fernando, La Union, envisions itself to be "a botanical garden city"; San Fernando, Pampanga, "gateway to North Philippines"; Sorsogon, "a progressive gateway to the South"; Tacurong, "most livable city in Central Cotabato"; Tagaytay, "a resort, retirement and character city"; Tagbilaran, "a prime eco-cultural tourism hub"; Tangub, "the agri-business and learning center in Northern Mindanao" and Toledo, "premier and livable city in the west coast."

Why has ISA focused on cities and enjoined mayors to be PGS fellows?

Firstly, local government autonomy through the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act 7160) has empowered local government units (LGUs).

Secondly, among the LGUs, cities have a "strategic position arising from their being relatively few and their being able to count on more than half of the current population already living in them." There are 114 cities in the country.

Thirdly, among city mayors currently in office, "a few have shown exemplary commitment to the common good and competence to work effectively for it."

The results, in ISA's assessment, have "thus far been positive."

Every six months

"ISA can get nine new cities every six months. Given the dynamics of political life, with term limits and the election of new city mayors, by keeping the current pace of a few new cities every six months, ISA should be able to maintain, at any given time, between 40 and 60 cities actively connected with its PGS program in the next five years. This number would constitute from a third to a half of all cities in the country," the institute said.

Extending the PGS to select provinces and towns is being planned as well.

The point is, according to Estanislao, "values of citizenship and governance need to be honored by their observance in the day-today discharge of ordinary duties in all facets of life in society."

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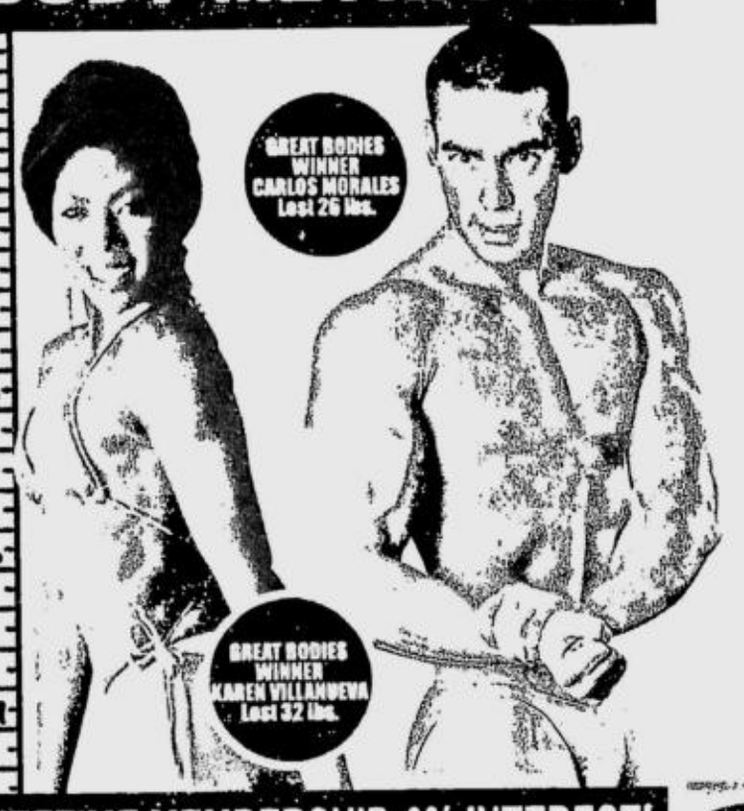

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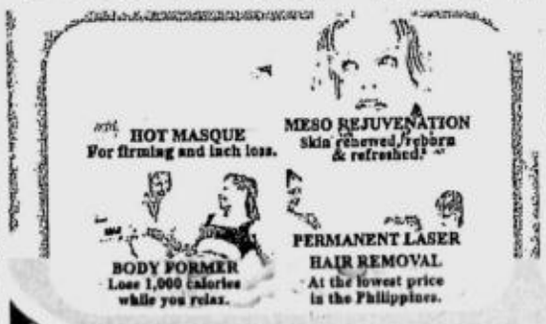

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Stigma of nursing test leak ...

From page A1

certificates to practice by the Professional Regulation Commission.

The PRC certificates allow these nurses to mainly assist doctors, according to Marilyn Yap, president of the Philippine Nurses Association (PNA).

"They just can't be involved in the administration of medicine because they still don't have a license," Yap explained.

The Court of Appeals last week issued a temporary restraining order on the PRC after the commission decided to approve the licenses of some 17,000 nursing graduates who passed the board exams despite the cheating controversy. Some of the graduates, however, were able to take their professional oaths before the issuance of the TRO.

Joining the PNA in its call, Mansibang said the best way to break the impasse was to nullify the results of the June exams and ask those who passed to retake the tests.

Mansibang is a member of Answer, a new coalition of health workers, educators, students and nursing organizations. The group is demanding an "overhaul of the PRC's Board of Nursing and the prosecution of those behind the cheating," he said.

"We really need to clean the names of the June 2006 passers," Mansibang told the INQUIRER. "We have to wipe out the stigma."

Threat to industry

Mansibang echoed the warnings of officials and industry experts that the country's status as one of the world's top producers of nurses could be threatened.

The PRC has confirmed that questions in the board exams taken by more than 42,000 nursing graduates in June had been provided in advance to hundreds of examinees. The initial accusations were made by students, who said that the PNA president, George Cordero, had provided the answers to students who took his coaching classes.

Although he has resigned, Cordero has denied the allegations and has threatened to sue his detractors for libel. Industry groups are calling on the PRC to compel the students to retake the exam to repair, according to one of the groups, the "tainted credibility of Filipino nurses here and abroad."

Those who passed the June exams said it would be unfair to force them to retake the exam or to delay their certification.

The Philippines is the top supplier of nurses to the United States, sending several thousands a year. Earlier this year, a change in American immigration law lifted the cap on the number of foreign nurses that American hospitals and clinics could hire. The move created more opportunities for Filipino nurses, who are also in demand in Europe, Japan and other more affluent Asian countries.

Great damage

According to officials, the scandal could greatly damage this status of Filipino nurses abroad. Already, Philippine officials said that American recruiters were turning away nurses who had taken the questioned board exams.

Questions also have been raised about the integrity of previous nursing board exams.

The Senate has started investigating the scandal. "American hospitals, Japanese hospitals, European hospitals are watching us," Sen. Richard Gordon said during a Senate hearing last week.

Health experts at the hearing said they feared a moratorium by other countries on the hiring of Filipino nurses.

Although officials contend that the quality of Filipino nurses hired in other countries would not be affected in the long run because the new nurses generally must pass tests in destination countries, the credibility problem could persist.

"The credibility of the Filipino nurses has been tainted," said Rosalinda D. Baldoz, administrator of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration. *With a report from the New York Times News Service*

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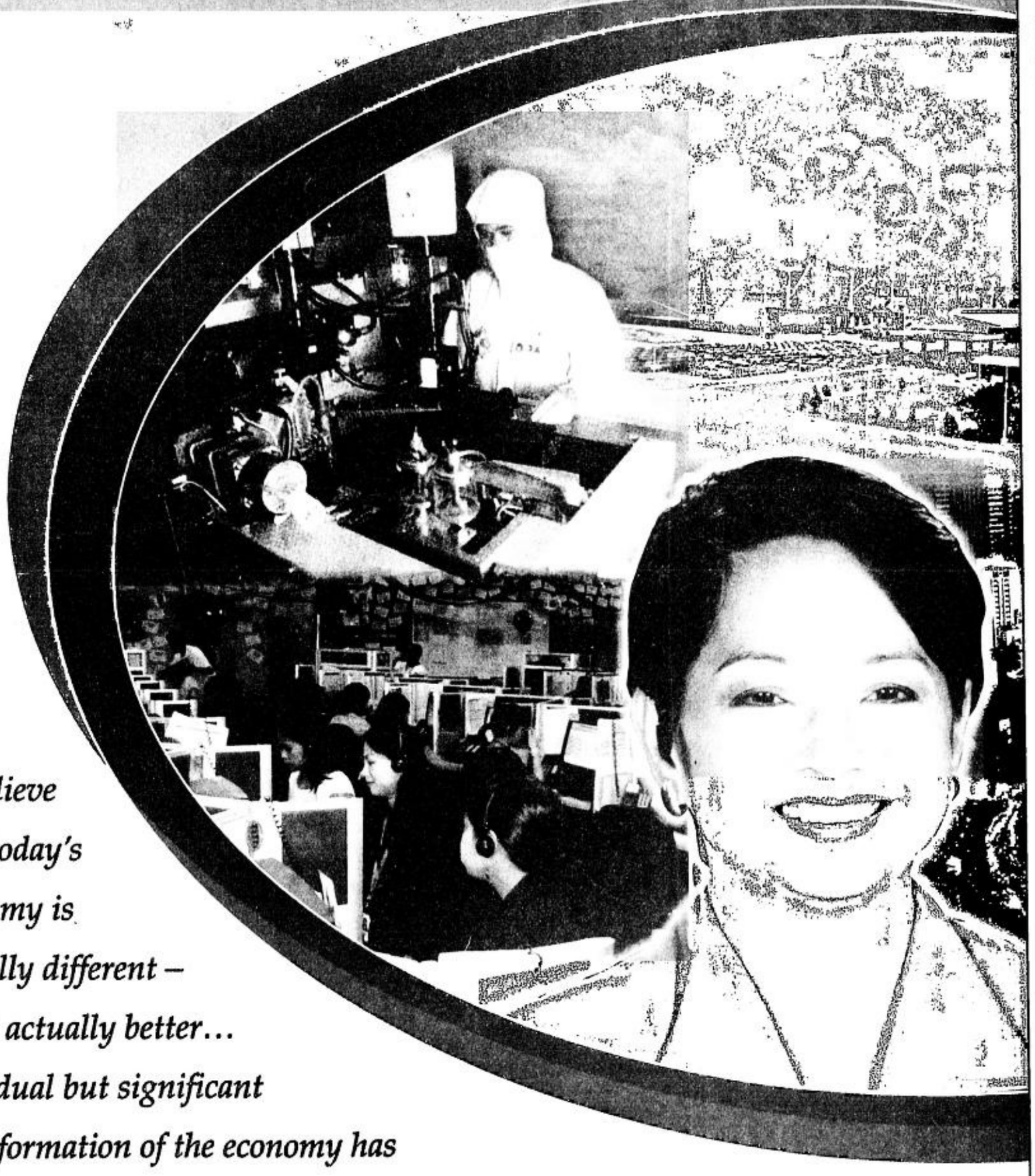

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NPA rebels raid Bantay Dagat post

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—COMMUNIST REBELS seized five high-powered firearms during a raid on a barangay hall serving as headquarters of the environmental watchdog Bantay Dagat in Toboso town, 114.5 km north of here, on Sunday.

Nine of the 30 New People's Army (NPA) members destroyed the padlock of the Salamanca barangay hall at about 8:30 a.m. and took a Thompson submachine gun, a Carbine rifle and an Icom radio, police said.

The rest of the group posted themselves outside the hall.

The rebels also took an M-16 rifle with six magazines from the nearby house of the barangay chair, Ereberto Baynosa Sr.

Senior Supt. Charles Calima, provincial police director, said the NPA also divested barangay tanods Jaime Esquerdo and Dione Pedros of their M-14 rifle and 12-gauge shotgun.

Baynosa heads the Bantay Dagat Task Force in Toboso, while the guards served as its members, Calima said.

A minor served as a guide for the rebels, he said.

Baynosa, who was not at his house when the rebels came, reported the raid to the municipal police.

Calima said the incident was expected to adversely affect the government's campaign against illegal fishing in the coastal areas of Toboso and neighboring areas.

Joya remains to be buried at Libingan

JOYA

THE REMAINS OF National Artist for the Visual Arts Jose Joya will be reinterred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig on Aug. 23 at noon after a Mass and services at 9 a.m. at the Funeraria Paz on Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

As a National Artist, an honor posthumously conferred on Joya in 2003, the former dean of the College of Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines in Diliman is entitled to interment at the heroes cemetery.

Joya, who died in 1995, was the foremost proponent of abstract expressionism in the country. He graduated in 1953 with a degree in Fine Arts, magna cum laude, from the UP, the first to garner the distinction from the state university.

Later, he obtained a master's degree from the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan on a Fulbright-Smith Mundt scholarship.

He died at the age of 63 from complications due to prostate cancer and was initially buried at Himlayang Pilipino in Novaliches, Quezon City.

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Probe body a coverup–Pimentel

From page A1

her favorite AFP generals to just do it."

He said Ms Arroyo's creation of the commission was just a way to mollify the mounting international protests on the failure of her administration to stop the extrajudicial killings.

"She can create a dozen more commissions headed by as many retired associate justices, but only she has the power or at the very least the influence to stop all those political killings," said Lacson.

"The commission ... can investigate the extrajudicial killings but it has no power to stop them," said Pimentel. "That power belongs to the President."

"But it seems she can't control some of the generals of the Armed Forces," he said.

Pimentel said the creation of the Melo Commission might just be a "coverup or gimmick" unless she went after the "generals suspected of having a hand in these gruesome crimes."

The Left says the counterinsurgency campaign has claimed 700 lives. The INQUIRER put the number of political killings at 200; the police count is 100.

Palparan defied court

Pimentel said Palparan had even "stubbornly defied" summonses to appear before the Court of Appeals to give his side on the disappearances of University of the Philippines students Karen Empeno and Sherlyn Cadapan and a farmer, Manuel Merino.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said the families of the victims should flood the Melo Commission with complaints.

"How it responds to the filing of these complaints will determine whether or not its creation is a waste of time or if it will serve its purpose and get to the bottom of the series of summary executions," Pangilinan said.

In remarks at a ceremony marking the 23rd anniversary of the assassination of opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., Ms Arroyo announced that Melo would have "wide powers and a sweeping mandate ... to put murderers behind bars and break this cycle of violence once and for all."

The commission includes National Bureau of Investigation Director Nestor Mantaring, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, Roman Catholic Bishop Camilo Gregorio and University of the Philippines official Nelia Gonzalez.

No to political killings

"Democracy in the Philippines will not stand for senseless political killings," Ms Arroyo said. "I have directed (the commission members) to leave no stone unturned in their pursuit of justice."

She said Melo should "pursue every lead down every path."

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters that the Philippine National Police Task Force Usig, which was set up by Ms Arroyo last month and given a 10-week deadline to solve 10 media and political killings, would continue with its work.

PNP Director General Oscar Calderon directed Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr., head of the task force, to cooperate fully with the Melo Commission.

Representatives Marcelino Libanan and Edcel Lagman and Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin welcomed Ms Arroyo's creation of the commission and urged it to finish its task by the end of the year.

"There should be no sacred cows. We should get to the bottom of these killings and put a stop to them once and for all," Libanan said. He said the commission "should spare no one," including Palparan, "if the evidence warrants it."

Not independent?

But Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said the commission was created "just to defuse the growing international and local pressure on the administration and so we don't expect it to stop these killings. She (the President) just wants to deflect the flak she's been getting."

Rosales also said that the commission members were "conservative." She said Melo came from Ms Arroyo's home province of Pampanga, while Mantaring and Zuño belonged to the government.

Bishop Gregorio did,not have a good relationship with "progressive priests," she said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said the Melo Commission was not independent, preferring one similar to the Agrava Commission that looked into the Aquino assassination. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Norman Bordadora, Luige A. del Puerto and Michael Lim Ubac*

Let people ...

From page A1

people. For me, I'd just do my best in this campaign, in this intramural, and that will clean itself. (The tag) doesn't bother me," he said after a press conference at the state-sponsored Kapihan ng Bayan.

Palparan, who will retire on Sept. 11, said the tag bothered him at first. "(B)ut now it's out in the open. It's for the people to decide."

He said he wanted to spend more time with his "loving wife" after retiring from the service.

Palparan said he did not believe in the virtue of extrajudicial killings but insisted that the President's order for an all-out war meant "doing everything within all available means and within the law to get rid of insurgency."

He admitted to being "indirectly responsible" for encouraging some individuals to take the law into their own hands by getting back at the insurgents.

Although President Macapagal-Arroyo praised him in her State of the Nation Address last month, Palparan said there was still a lot more that he could have done to fulfill his commander-in-chief's order of an all-out war on communist rebels.

"My achievements are not enough. It was only a few months ago that I became a division commander of a big force," he said.

Palparan was appointed commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division in Bulacan last October. Before that, he was commanding general of the 8th Infantry Battalion in Samar and the 20th IB in Oriental Mindoro.

Fearing for his life

He said that while he feared for his life just like everyone else, "we should not let them (the insurgents) dominate us."

He said he and his men could not be intimidated by the hit-men of the New People's Army because to show fear was to accept defeat. The NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has formed hit squads to go after those behind the spate of unsolved killings of activists.

Since 2001, 247 activists and 47 journalists have been killed. Militant groups have blamed the police and military for the killings, while authorities put the blame on a purge in the communist movement.

Asked to comment on claims that he was responsible for the extrajudicial killings, Palparan said: "I'm responsible, maybe, relatively perhaps, but as to my direct responsibility and even to my men, I have always said I could face any investigation."

Psy-war

He acknowledged that he was engaged in "psychological warfare" which, according to him, had won back the trust of the people and built up their confidence in the authorities' capacity to protect them.

Palparan said this method was one of the strengths of his operations.

"We are encouraging people to fight this problem. If the people, who have been victimized by insurgents, decide to take it upon themselves to get even with the enemy, that is their individual responsibility. They know who were responsible for these killings before we came in. I have encouraged the people to take the law into their own hands. But I cannot order my people who are following the law to kill the insurgents," he said.

PALPARAN

Palparan said few people knew that the areas to which he had been assigned were notorious for their records of unsolved killings of civilians by insurgents.

It was only when the tide had turned and the militants began to dominate the body count did the phenomenon become a national issue, according to Palparan.

Palparan felt the media was painting a one-sided picture of the war on communist rebels, claiming that newspapers and broadcast stations had largely hyped up the killings of militants while ignoring the murders of policemen, soldiers, mayors and barangay captains.

He said he was not surprised that he and his men had gotten a bad rap from the media.

The silent majority, which he believes approves of his methods, would not make any noise unlike the militants with their sleek propaganda machine, according to Palparan.

While the public might dismiss the NPA as a minuscule force of 8,000 compared with the 300,000 soldiers and police personnel, Palparan said the insurgents were counting on a support and intelligence system in the grass roots where at least two of every 10 people were sympathetic to their cause.

Pervasive

He said the communist intelligence network had become so pervasive that he believed that they could be anybody—from tricycle drivers to cockpit workers to policemen and soldiers.

Certain people are supporting the insurgents not because they share the same ideology but because they are being intimidated, Palparan said.

He warned that supporters of communist rebels were also targets of his campaign.

If the supporters maintained their ties to communist rebels, Palparan said his men had no choice but to charge them in court or arrest them.

"If they have arms, there could be violence. If we see that he (the communist supporter) has armed civilians, I'm sorry if we will have an encounter and others could get involved," he said.

₱100-M bond for oil cleanup ...

From page A1

undersecretary for legal affairs, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The Clean Water Act, passed in 2004, prohibits the "discharging, depositing or causing to be deposited (of) material directly or indirectly into the water bodies or along the margins of any surface water ... which could cause water pollution or impede the natural flow in the water body."

RA 9275 imposes a penalty of P10,000 to P200,000 for every day of violation, on top of possible closure or suspension of operations of erring parties.

Failure to undertake cleanup operations "willfully or through gross negligence" is punishable by 2 to 4 years' imprisonment and a fine of P50,000 to P100,000 per day of violation, according to Section 28 of RA 9275.

If the failure to clean up results in "serious injury or loss of life and/or irreversible contamination of surface, ground, coastal and marine water," the violators could be punished with imprisonment of 6 to 12 years and a fine of P500,000 for each day that the contamination continues.

"They cannot run away from the case. The case is on top of the damage, but what the Secretary (Angelo T. Reyes) wants to focus on right now is remediation," Borje said.

Borje said the DENR still needed to review the contract between Petron and SMDC to see which party was liable for violating the Clean Water Act.

Petron hired Sunshine Maritime, owner of the MT Solar I, to transport 2 million liters of bunker fuel oil from its refinery in Limay, Bataan, to Zamboanga del Sur. The tanker sank off Guimaras on Aug. 11 and has released at least 200,000 liters of the fuel into the sea.

The DENR in Western Visayas has gathered soft sea surface and surface water samples from the affected areas to determine the extent of pollution in the waters of Guimaras.

Guimaras Gov. Joaquin Nava said the oil spill had affected or damaged 15 sq km of coral reefs, 50 ha of seaweed plantations, more than 200 km of coastline, 1,000 ha of marine reserves and two resort islands.

State of calamity

Environment watchdog Greenpeace yesterday called on the Arroyo administration to immediately declare a state of calamity in the areas affected by the oil spill.

In a statement, Greenpeace campaigner Beau Baconguis said the origin of the oil slick was located at 7.3 nautical miles, or 11.7 km southwest, of Unisan, the southernmost isle in the group of islands forming Guimaras.

Baconguis was aboard the Greenpeace ship MY Esperanza that arrived at the oil spill Ground Zero in Guimaras Strait Sunday morning to start assessing the damage caused by the oil spill.

He said the oil slick had started as a thin strip but fanned out across the Guimaras Strait as it came closer to the islands of Guimaras and Negros.

Thick oil globules were seen floating toward smaller islands and reefs of Guimaras, he said.

"This is only about 10 percent of the oil contained in the sunken tanker but it had already reached a very wide area and devastation was extensive," the campaigner said.

Greenpeace has demanded that Petron be held accountable for damage to the environment and for economic losses in these areas.

Scientists and environmental experts joined Greenpeace in its voyage to the site of the disaster.

Long-term effects

Some who went onshore saw two mangrove areas near the Taklong marine sanctuary covered in oil sludge and already showing signs of death, Greenpeace said.

Janet Cotter of the Greenpeace Science Unit in the United Kingdom said the oil spill would have a profound impact on the environment and people.

"Although the visible pollution can be cleaned up to a certain extent, the long-term toxic effects of the oil pollution can kill mangroves and corals, impacting the rich marine biodiversity found in this area and affecting people's livelihoods for years to come," he said.

Petron has told the DENR, other agencies and nongovernment organizations like the World Wildlife Fund-Philippines at a meeting on Sunday that the company was planning to suck out the remaining bunker fuel before re-floating the sunken vessel, which is 900 meters under the sea, beyond the reach of divers.

Dismayed

The Philippine Coast Guard would ask officials of Petron and Sunshine Maritime to submit their action plan for the retrieval of the sunken tanker.

"We are dismayed that they have no concrete, viable action plans yet for the retrieval of the tanker more than a week after it sank," PCG spokesperson Lt. Commander Joseph Coyme said. "What is the company they have contracted? When will the recovery of the tanker start?"

Coyme said the PCG would send a letter today advising Petron and Sunshine Maritime Development of the ultimatum.

Water samples

The water samples taken by the DENR regional office have been submitted to a laboratory in Iloilo for examination. The results will be available in one or two weeks, Environment Undersecretary Francisco Bravo said.

"We cannot go and decide without the facts yet. It will take one or two weeks before we get the results," said Bravo, who chairs the Pollution Adjudication Board (PAB).

The results of the water sampling and analysis would be submitted by the DENR regional director to the PAB, along with its recommendations. The PAB would then deliberate on the case and forward its own recommendation to the environment secretary for final decision.

The biggest penalty imposed so far by the government for violation of the Clean Water Act was against Australian mining firm Lafayette Philippines Inc. It was fined P10.4 million for two mine tailings spills that caused fish kills in Rapu-Rapu, Albay.

Senate probe

In the Senate, Sen. Jamby Madrigal is seeking a Senate investigation of the oil spill and the liability of Petron.

She said Petron could not simply wash its hands of any liability in the disaster. A Petron spokesperson said on television that the company had no legal liability in the oil spill but had taken the "moral responsibility" of attending to its cleanup.

"Petron management was negligent and they should be fined for this appalling incident. It is morally and legally reprehensible for them to do otherwise," Madrigal said in a statement.

The senator said she would file a bill requiring the use of tankers with double-hulls in the transport of crude and petroleum products and banning them from passing through protected marine sites.

For his part, Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan asked what the National Disaster Coordinating Council has been doing about the oil spill.

He said the absence of the NDCC from the picture created the perception that the government was inept and helpless in responding to the problem. *With reports from Carla P. Gomez and Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon; and Juliet Labog-Javellana and Leila B. Salaverria in Manila*

Video games tapped in fight against cancer

From page A1

Tate of HopeLab, the company that created the Re-Mission game for children being treated for cancer.

"It is just a matter of designing them thoughtfully and targeting what you want to achieve with the design," Tate explained.

Re-Mission combined biological accuracy with animated heroine "Roxxi," billed as "a gutsy, fully armed nanobot that seeks out and destroys cancer cells throughout the human body."

30,000 orders

Patients that played the game were more apt to take their medicine, undergo needed therapy and believe they could beat cancer, according to HopeLab, which is based in Palo Alto, California.

HopeLab has filled more than 30,000 orders for the game from 55 countries since launching Re-Mission in April, according to Tate.

HopeLab is working on games to treat autism, depression, sickle cell anemia, and childhood obesity, according to Tate.

"We do think the model can be replicated," he said.

HopeLab plans to share what it learned about researching and designing the game at the Health Games gathering at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore.

The third annual conference was informally referred to as "the exergames" in the spirit of meshing exercise and play.

Among those expected to attend were representatives from the US National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control, according to organizer Ben Sawyer.

"What is great there is that our conference is becoming a platform for federal and nongovernment agencies to meet and find ways to use this technology to address health and health care," Sawyer told Agence France Presse.

"Part of our goal is to show that a technology as powerful as video games has a use far beyond entertainment, while on the other hand entertainment is part of a healthy lifestyle."

Dance video game

A study is under way in public schools in the US state of West Virginia to determine whether playing the game Dance Dance Revolution (DDR) made by Japan-based Konami Corp. helps children get fit.

Known as Dancing Stage in Europe, DDR is a music video game played on a dance pad featuring four pressure-sensitive panels with arrows pointing up, down, left, and right.

To score points, players synchronize their steps to tunes by stepping on the appropriate arrows as symbols scroll along a video screen.

Arcade-quality DDR games were made available in a portion of the schools in the state in the spring and should be in many schools more by fall, according to Emily Murphy who is helping conduct the study.

"The students love it and the teachers love it," Murphy said of the game. "It has taken on a life of its own. There is something about the game that draws you in."

While it was too early for clinical results, some students who had previously refused to even dress for gym class were eagerly hopping on DDR, according to Murphy.

"That is a lot more than we were doing before," he said, noting one overweight girl who took to DDR lost 30 pounds.

Gaming culture

"It's the gaming culture. Kids have three or four different game consoles in their homes. If they are going to be playing video games, they can at least be somewhat active."

Sawyer was excited by word of Nintendo's soon-to-be-released Wii gaming console with motion-sensing controllers that allow players to move as if really playing tennis or performing surgery.

Portions of the conference will be devoted to using the inside of human bodies as game settings and making trauma center simulators on par with flight simulators used to train jet pilots, according to Sawyer.

"Maybe we can create a simulation for the nurse, the doctor, the combat medic," Sawyer said. "Any single cell, let along any other facet of the body, is fascinating content for a video game."

Keeping brains sharp

Conference sessions will delve into using video games to keep aging brains sharp and to train young people with attention deficit hypertensive disorders to focus their minds.

"It almost sounds like the start of a bad joke: a college professor and a doctor walk into a bar, what happens," Sawyer said of the conference playfully. "We hope more successes like Re-Mission and DDR."

"If we can pinpoint where the emerging medium works best, why and how, it can become another tool in the toolbox." *AFP*

Logistics wins Unilever Service Award for second consecutive year.

IDS Logistics (Philippines) Inc. was recently selected by Unilever companies in the Philippines as 2005 Service Supplier of the Year, marking the second year in a row that IDS Logistics has been feted for its partnership with the global fast moving consumer goods conglomerate.

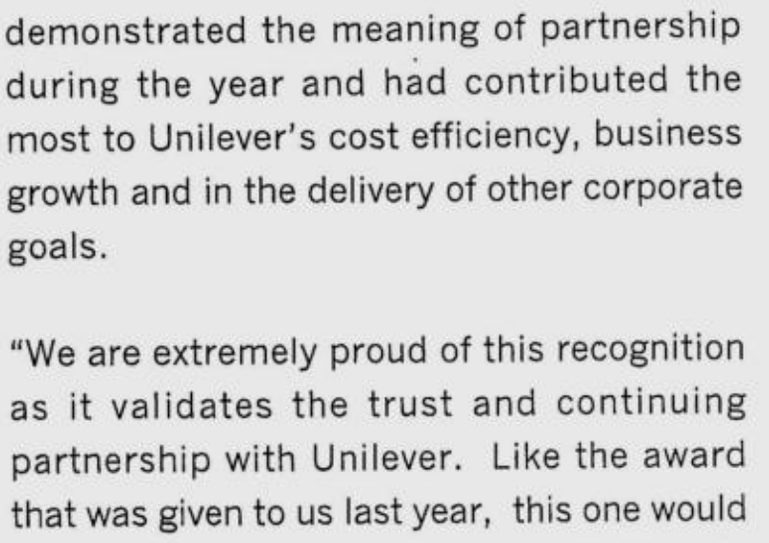
The Award is given annually by Unilever Philippines to the service provider that best demonstrated the meaning of partnership during the year and had contributed the most to Unilever's cost efficiency, business growth and in the delivery of other corporate goals.

"We are extremely proud of this recognition as it validates the trust and continuing partnership with Unilever. Like the award that was given to us last year, this one would not have been possible without Unilever's commitment to pursue logistics management initiatives that have the customer's satisfaction foremost in mind," Emmanuel Bautista, IDS Logistics managing director said.

Last year, IDS Logistics was adjudged as 2004 Vendor of the Year from Unilever's list of suppliers and partners for its third-party logistics services and initiatives that helped Unilever deliver beyond the satisfaction of their customers.

In handing the award this year, Unilever cited IDS Logistics' efforts to increase vehicle load factor, achieving much higher truck utilization which resulted in significant transport savings.

It also cited IDS Logistics' enhancement of core and value-added services, such as Trigantic, a web-based order tracking system for Unilever and its customers, which allows the sharing of real-time information.



Receiving the award are; Dindo Rellosa, IDS General Manager for Operations and Bobby Prieto, IDS Operations Manager for Unilever. Awarding them are; Sar Sarigumba, Unilever Customer Service Director and Pong Ejercito, Unilever VP for Customer Development.

Lastly, IDS Logistics was lauded for institutionalizing a continuous improvement program aimed at supporting Unilever's strategic objectives.

This program, dubbed as "Project Density", was also separately recognized by Unilever as "Best in the Philippines" for its company-wide Kaizen or "Continuous Improvement Program." The program involved the improvement on Freight Cost and Truck Loadability Efficiency.

As part of its efforts to further improve efficiency, IDS Logistics is working to optimize transport operations through vehicle routing and scheduling systems. IDS Logistics is also enhancing its radio frequency scanning facility to move to a truly paperless warehouse operation, as well as its multi-packing facility that helped Unilever come up with more multi-SKU packaging designs and bundling.

"We are committed to continuously work with Unilever in improving logistics management processes so we can make their products available to all consumers at the lowest possible unit cost." Bautista said.

Unilever and IDS Logistics executives tour the CDC Facility in Libis, where the distribution of Unilever brands emanate.

The partnership starts at the boardroom with regular coordination meetings to constantly assess performance and processes.

Bundling and promos of Unilever's different brands are made easier through IDS Logistics' Multi-Packing Facility.

IDS Logistics business partners:

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OPINION

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Born free and equal

EDITORIAL

A COLUMN WRITTEN LAST WEEK BY INQUIRER columnist Isagani Cruz on homosexuals stirred a tempest among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups not only in this country but also in other parts of the world. Scores of e-mail letters and telephone calls were received at the INQUIRER the day after the publication of the column and they have not stopped coming.

Cruz's column placed homosexuals in a negative light and it is only understandable that the members of the group should protest violently against it. But we believe that the controversy may yet result in something good for the homosexual community, in that it may focus attention on and lead to the alleviation of their plight.

The Conservative Right and the Religious Right have traditionally viewed homosexuals as immoral, perverse, sinful, queer and causing harm to themselves, to others and to society as a whole. But do homosexuals choose to be so? Are homosexuals born or bred?

Scientific studies the past 20-30 years do not support the claim that homosexuality is genetic. The studies covered such areas as the hypothalamus, genes, finger length, inner ear differences, eye-blinking and neurohormonal differentiation. The studies that purportedly provide "proof" that homosexuals are "born that way" are inconclusive at best and, as one scientist has said, "largely correlational in nature."

Probably the best way to describe the situation is this paraphrase from Dr. Jeffrey Satinover, author of "Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth": Some people may be predisposed because of genetic, prenatal hormonal influences or other physical or brain differences to have personalities that make them vulnerable to environmental factors that can elicit homosexual desires.

But whether born or bred, the fact is that homosexuals are gaining acceptance in many parts of the world, including the United States and the Philippines. A national survey of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders made by the Kaiser Family Foundation in the US in 2000 found that a large majority believes that there is more acceptance today compared to a few years ago. Significant numbers, however, reported that they experienced prejudice and discrimination, including verbal abuse and physical violence, based on sexual orientation. A companion survey found generally high levels of acceptance of LGBTs in many professional roles.

We do not know if similar surveys have been done in the Philippines, but there seems to have been a change in the general public attitude toward homosexuals in the past 50 years. As a matter of fact, many homosexual professionals are held in high esteem in various sectors of society today.

And yet the discrimination continues. The rich, the prominent and the influential may not be victims of discrimination, but the poor and the underprivileged are. Discrimination against homosexuals may be a cause of, and may accentuate, poverty. A study made in Sweden in 2005 showed that homosexuals all over the world are to a large extent subjected to violence, insecurity, isolation and exclusion from decision-making functions.

The study said that LGBT people suffer from repression in the form of cultural injustice (being rendered "invisible," being maligned, harassed, violated and disparaged in everyday life) and legal injustice (being denied rights and equal protection under the law). As a consequence, they also suffer economic injustice, such as being denied employment or being summarily dismissed from work and being denied family-based social welfare benefits.

The discrimination and the violation of human rights that LGBT people suffer often diminishes their self-esteem and makes them feel helpless, powerless and unable to do anything to improve their situation.

Louise Arbour, UN high commissioner for human rights, in a recent speech, said, "Neither the existence of national laws nor the prevalence of custom can ever justify the abuse, attacks, torture and indeed killings that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons are subjected to because of who they are or are perceived to be."

Like women, who have suffered discrimination for ages, homosexuals are also human beings like the rest of us. Those who would discriminate against LGBT people and treat them less kindly should perhaps be reminded of the first sentence of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights."

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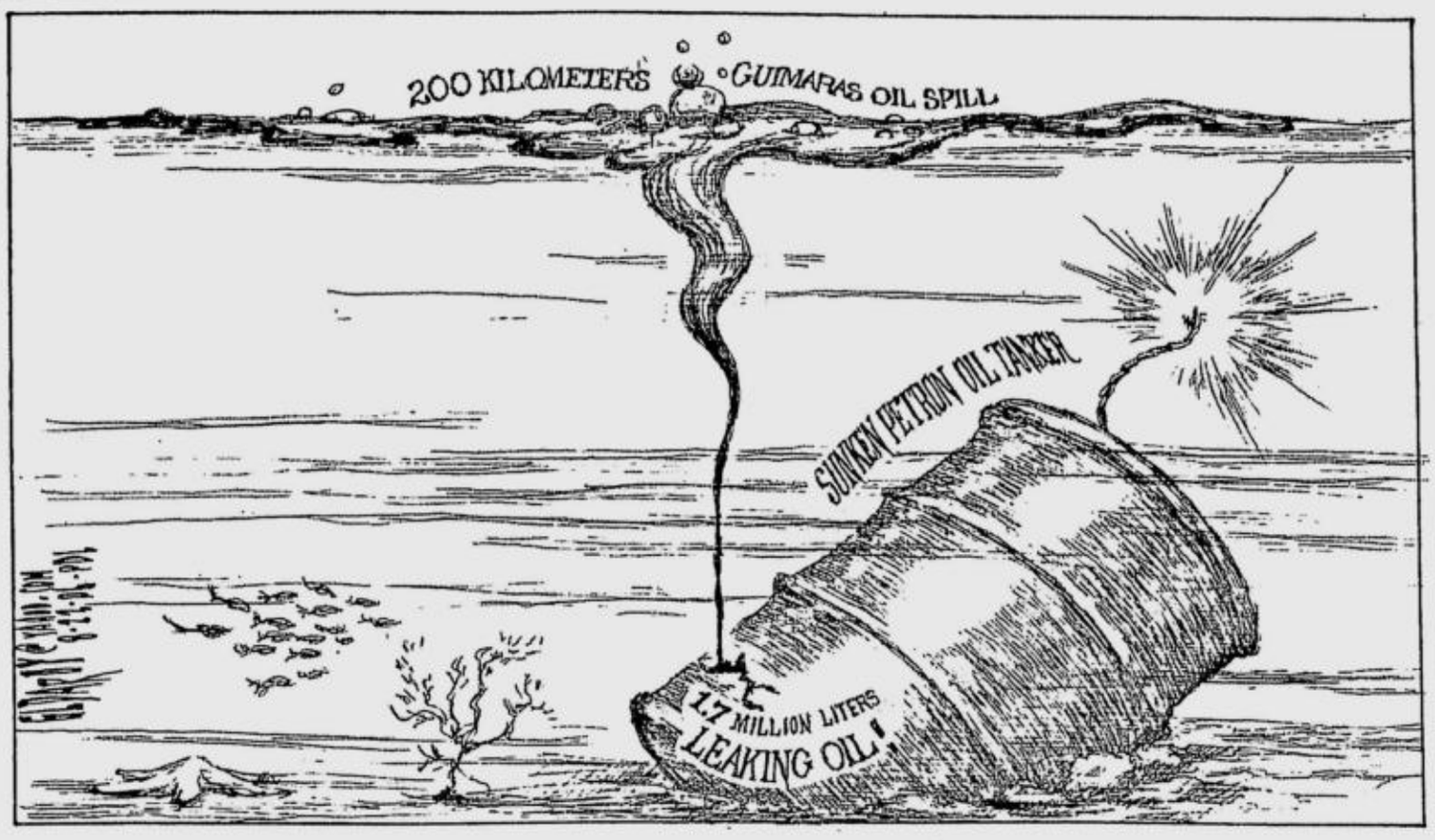

Beyond parking tickets

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

A RECENT NEW YORK TIMES REPORT ON illegal parking tickets may jog memories for those who squirmed when Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada landed on Transparency International's list of the world's Top 10 most corrupt leaders.

"Diplomats from countries that rank high on Transparency International corruption index pile up huge numbers of unpaid (parking) tickets," the Times reported in its op-ed page last Aug 13. But "diplomats from countries that rank low on the index barely get any."

On Transparency International's 2004 list, Marcos' $5 billion to $10 billion trailed the top-notcher, Indonesia's Suharto. Wedged into slot No. 9 was Erap, with $78 million to $80 million. He lagged behind Nicaragua's Arnoldo Aleman who had $100 million.

Diplomatic immunity enables many to shred tickets, David Brooks wrote. Yet, "not a single parking violation by a Swedish diplomat was recorded" over a five year period. "Nor were there any by diplomats from Denmark, Japan, Israel, Norway or Canada."

In contrast, Kuwait picked up an average of 246 parking violations. "Diplomats from Egypt, Chad, Sudan, Mozambique, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Syria committed huge numbers of violations."

"Don't you know me?" a congressman from north Cebu once snarled at the traffic officer he slapped for flagging his car. Violence was his chosen form of immunity from a traffic ticket. His district is now snarled in Girl Scout funds ending in personal accounts, ghost foundations to Joc-Joc fertilizers.

Some jeepney drivers outdo ambassadors. The security cop for Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña's wife owned a jeepney whose driver racked up 350 traffic violations. Did his job vest de-facto immunity? The mayor fired him.

Most traffic fatalities here are children between 1 and 4 years old, the Asian Development Bank reported in its study of Asean road safety. "Some aspects of Filipino culture ... often go against strict law implementation, self-discipline and courtesy. These cultural factors infect many agencies and the behavior of drivers and pedestrians."

But run a red light in Subic and cops will pull you over pronto. Nuts who careen through Metro Manila, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, etc. turn law-abiding inside the Subic Freeport.

Cultural norms swirl below parking tickets. Citing "The Culture of Nations" study by Raymond Fisman and Edward Miguel, the Times writer adds: "If you're Swedish and you have a chance to pull up in front of a fire hydrant, you still don't.... You're Swedish. That's who you are."

Ordinances here penalize peeing in public. Would a London bobby "unload" in public? "I saw a Lapu-Lapu city cop pee against a post in uniformed glory," I groused to a brilliant forester from India. "We have them back home," he said.

An Ateneo Human Rights Center survey of 128 law enforcers focused on those linked to murder and homicide. Trying a military office or public official is an uphill battle, the survey found.

"Delays of investigation and prosecution are directly proportional to the rank the accused holds. Victims or witnesses are often reluctant to volunteer information. The cause is interlocking fear of reprisal, financial fixing, distrust of the judicial system." Some fret that such investigations fizzle out.

"Most respondents agreed there's basis for the fear of reprisal. The theory of our legal system is equal justice for all. That is as far as it goes," Fr. Joaquin Bernas, SJ noted. "The powerful can always seek shelter in impunity."

Look at how Transparency International's local alumni fare. Monday's rites recalling former Sen. Benigno Aquino's assassination show the masterminds benefited from the "culture of impunity." See that too in today's extra-judicial killings.

The core of our values is the right to God-given life. "All lives are mine," says the Book of Ezekiel. Life is not for Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan and soldiers to take, on orders of the state, activists insist. Neither is it for insurgents to snuff out lives for "failure to pay 'revolutionary tax' or 'blood-debts against the people," as Catholic bishops warn. The mayors of Davao and Cebu encourage vigilante murders to "ensure peace and order" by watering down the Fifth Commandment into a suggestion.

In his book "The Central Liberal Truth," former foreign aid worker Lawrence Harrison argues that culture shapes behavior and differences mostly explain why some develop faster than others. Some cultures check graft; others turn a blind eye to it. Fatalism is encouraged by some and individualism by others.

Ireland, China and Latin America show cultural transformations can't be imposed. Such transformation is led by people who accept responsibility for their own culture's problems—and selectively reinterpret their own traditions to trigger modernization.

Sustained investments in education, specially in improving female literacy, usually precede transformations. (Thailand spends six times per pupil than we do for our students.) Chile was highly literate in the 19th century.

By 1905, 9 out of 10 Japanese children were in school—and went on to graduate. In contrast, 33 out of every 100 who enrolled here in Grade I at the turn of the century dropped out before reaching Grade 6. And 2006 ADB indicators show this worrying trough has deepened even further.

"These investments (in education) laid the groundwork for takeoffs that were decades away," Harrison writes. Indeed, complex cultural change is measured in centuries, not in short election cycles.

Not a small triumph

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I SPOKE AT ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL LAST FRIday to a group of people who were either asthmatics or who had kids that were asthmatics. For some reason, the people who invited me thought I might be an inspiration for them—an ex-asthmatic who ended up not doing very badly in life.

It did make me recall my bouts with asthma when I was a kid. Life has a strange sense of humor and gave me a couple of afflictions that cartoonists often like to make fun of: asthma when I was a kid and gout when I became an adult. Asthma has gotten to be depicted as beggar's or sick man's opera, with all the wheezing or whistling sounds it produces, and gout, well, that's the fat man with the fatter toe imbibing wine and dining opulently, a cautionary tale of effect and cause. It's funny—only of the asphyxiating or needling kind.

I became *suki* to a neighborhood doctor from repeated bouts with asthma. (A doctor at St. Luke's would tell me "*suki*" is the exact same word most asthmatics used to refer to themselves from their frequent visits to doctors and hospitals.) Then there were no powerful medicines to appease the wrathful gods of asthma, you had to flounder in the raging waters while clinging to the fragile raft of breath for days on end. That is the perfect image for it: Asthma gives you the sensation of drowning. Those who do die from asthma—and there are still many—might as well have drowned, on dry land.

I remember that sometime in Grade 1, during the season of rains, I had to quit school for a couple of months as a result of being kept to bed often. My parents didn't mind if I repeated the grade despite the drain on very scarce resources it entailed if that was what it took to keep me alive. At the end of those two months, the officials of my school agreed to see if I could catch up after the long absence. If I did, no need to repeat. Of course, I did. What can I say? *Buti na lang magaling ako.*

Asthma had bad and good results on me. The bad included a slouch that I would learn later was not entirely the product of sloth. An X-ray would reveal I had a curvature at the top of my spine, the product of reclining on piles and piles of pillows, which is what an asthmatic does while in the throes of an attack. You cannot lie down flat on the bed, you'd drown. You sleep in a half-sitting position.

I was tempted to attribute my wretched voice to asthma, too, but I've heard asthmatics talk and sing, and many of them have *pang-karaoke* voices. Alas, I can only attribute my voice to bad luck.

Socially, it robbed me of the joys of summer and Christmas for a while. Summers were a time for the kids to go out and play at night, in particular what Tagalogs call *patintero* or what Bicolanos call *turubigan*. The latter name owed to the lines of the squares in the game being made from water drawn from the canal. To hear the gleeful shouts of the other kids emanating from some part of the neighborhood while you languished in infantile detention was torture. It was the same thing with Christmas when the other kids roamed the streets caroling. I don't know that I would have improved the aesthetics of the cacophony of voices that rioted in the cold night (oh, yes, nights were still cold then), I do know I'd have known the meaning of Christmas.

The good was that I read and read and read. Of course, that wasn't all attributable to asthma, that was also attributable to personal inclination. Asthma, and the fact that a sleepy town like Naga offered little by way of diversion (no TV and the movie houses changed movies by eons), merely supplied the opportunity. My curiosity and the school library supplied the motive and means. Asthma as well drove me to introspection, compelling me to deal with the wonder and awe of that human phenomenon called breath.

The affliction disappeared as suddenly as it came—sometime in Grade II or III, I'm not sure now when. I never tried exotic cures, though there was no dearth of people suggesting lizards, snakes and monkeys. What can one say? Asthma is dangerous to exotic animals. (That's the case with gout, too: you'll hear no end of bores telling how to deal with it when you are listening to music and imbibing gout-inducing spirits. What can I say? Gout is painful in more ways than one.) I did try playing basketball since all the kids in the school I went to did. I never learned the damn thing (to this day I can't dribble). But all that getting knocked down, which took the wind out of me, must have brought the wind back to me.

I don't really know that there's any inspiration to be drawn from surviving asthma any more than there is from surviving any affliction. Or the inspiration you can draw from the one applies to the other. I suppose it's how you deal with adversity that really matters, whether the adversity is genetic or social.

The doctor who spoke before me rattled off some of the people in history who had asthma but went on to do great things. One of them, to my surprise, was Beethoven. You do learn something every day. He was a very good example, I thought—and told my audience—of someone who triumphed over adversity. Beethoven wasn't just an asthmatic, he was also deaf. How long he was an asthmatic I did not know, how long he was deaf I did know, which was pretty much during the height of his musical powers. You can't be more cursed than that, to be a musician and to be deaf. But Beethoven did not decide to slink into a (literal) silence, he decided albeit often irascibly to blow heaven's trumpets into this world. It was during his darkest moments that he composed his masterpiece, possibly the grandest music ever made on earth. That is the Ninth Symphony.

What can I say? Winning is never about overcoming others. It's always about overcoming yourself.

Questions of credibility and independence

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

LAST SATURDAY, WHEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Cecile Alvarez of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and I taped our radio program on dzRH, we found President Macapagal-Arroyo in a relaxed and upbeat mood. The Palace was empty except for Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Milton Alingod, Lupita Aquino-Kashiwahara and a few technicians. She showed up in slacks and a light blue shirt and scarf, and we taped next door to what had been her father's office. Days earlier, the committee on justice of the House of Representatives had thrown out the new impeachment complaint for lack of substance and, as GMA herself noted, things were looking up with the budget deficit well under control.

Palace officials earlier said she wanted to make an important announcement and later we realized why. She wanted to announce in time for the 23rd anniversary of Ninoy Aquino's martyrdom her creation of a new commission to probe the rash of extrajudicial slayings. As she put it, Ninoy was the "most famous" victim of political killing and human rights violation, and the commission was part of her government's condemnation of these slayings in the "harshest terms."

* * *

A month ago, these slayings and her sentiments about them merited just two lines in her State of the Nation Address. On our radio program, however, she went straightaway to announce that she was creating an independent commission of five members, headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo, to probe the extrajudicial and political slayings, and recommend to the appropriate agencies action against the suspects. GMA took extra effort to stress that it would be a powerful, credible and truly independent agency.

* * *

I observed that the commission's effectiveness would hinge on its credibility and independence, and GMA agreed. She confessed that she had also thought of tapping someone from the Court of Appeals to head it, but she took note of the high regard of people for the Supreme Court and so her choice of Melo. The fact that he is her *cabalen* from Angeles City and his first government job was in the legal office of her father could raise eyebrows about his "independence," however. But Melo later told this columnist that he had served other presidents far longer. He was presiding justice of the Court of Appeals when President Fidel Ramos made him his first appointee to the Supreme Court in 1992.

A former colleague regards Melo as someone who doesn't panic and isn't prone to finger-pointing. These are qualities he would need in carrying out his mandate. But Melo said that even this early his relatives have already told him he has their sympathy for taking the new job which is quite difficult. Already some leftists are saying they're not going to cooperate with a Palace-formed commission, although earlier they were accusing GMA of doing nothing to stop the killings. Another case of *sala sa init, sala sa lamig.*

* * *

I recall that Batanes Bishop Camilo Gregorio, the "church element" in the new commission, was the successor of "Commander Tony," as the activist Bacolod Bishop Antonio Fortich was called by the media. Gregorio displayed a bit of that same independence.

The other private sector representative, UP regent Nelia Teodoro-Gonzalez, has a vast experience in people skills and pro-poor advocacies, such as the education of street children. She is a governor of the Manila Overseas Press Club and once headed the Los Baños chapter of the UP Alumni Association, the UPAA's largest group, and is president of the Philippine Federation of Business and Professional Women.

* * *

It was, however, when GMA discussed her "road map to RP prosperity" that she really became animated and her face lit up. We went over the five "mega regions" that she had identified for development—the Northern Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, the Metro Luzon Urban Beltway, Central Philippines, Mindanao and the Cyber Corridor—and as she rambled on, she mentioned many infrastructure projects, including the upgrading of airports and ports or construction of new ones, linking road networks, and more roll on-roll off and irrigation projects. Apparently it is her grand design to open up all the country's regions and link them together so that not one is isolated and left out. This is a good idea, since isolation can only lead to backwardness and insurgency. Pundits have opined that if she could get even half of those projects off the ground by the 2007 mid-term elections, the opposition would find it very hard to win a majority in Congress.

* * *

GMA's mega-regions program is ambitious and will involve mega-billions, which is probably why non-believers term it the "Enchanted Kingdom." But she pointed out that they also termed as "unbelievable" her statements about call centers and related IT industries in her 2001 State of the Nation Address, and now these employ 200,000 people and counting.

How long did she plan the mega-regions program? The first (six-month) phase of this "rolling" program was completed soon after she was elected in 2004, she said, but she revealed it only in the last Sona "as the government now has the financial resources for it." Thanks to careful budget trimming that has resulted in lower deficit, increased revenues that include new taxes, and the strong showing of the peso that resulted in lower interest payments, there's money for the projects. She added that in imposing new taxes she "paid the price" with the sharp drop of her popularity rating, but it was "worth it" since these big projects can now be pushed. GMA said that by the time she leaves office in 2010, most of them would be finished. And yes, she's definitely exiting by 2010.

Names and memories

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HE GAVE US OUR NAMES. AS A FRESHMAN AT the University of the Philippines, my brother Nono was so enamored of the Soviet Bolsheviks—if not exactly by their ideology, then by their names—that he decided to rebaptize his brothers and sisters. Thus, my eldest sister Neneng became Nenki, Bo became Boski, Manny became Mankov, Chona turned into Chonky, I became Rinky, Boboy was Boboski, Joni was transformed into Jonky, and Charo, Charovsky. In turn, we rechristened him "Nonky."

This process of renaming had its unforeseen consequence, though. My parents became so alarmed at what they saw as my brother's leftist tendencies that they promptly pulled him out of UP and he ended up at the University of the East where he graduated with an accounting degree.

This didn't stop him from his naming spree. Later in life, I acquired another nickname courtesy of Nono. I became "Kliber," the origins and meaning of which are lost in the mists of memory. I was flattered no end when, after his retirement from PLDT where he had worked for more than 30 years, he named his consulting company "Kliber Consultancy," proudly handing me a calling card bearing the company's logo.

In our family of nine, naming and name-calling was a favorite pastime. Sometimes we used names to insult each other, or to highlight an undesirable feature or character trait. But mostly, it was a way of shortening a given name or playing around with it. Papa was particularly good at this, inventing pet names that didn't really mean anything but was special and unique to each one of us. I take comfort in the German saying that "the child who is loved has many names." Perhaps naming and renaming us was also Nono's way of telling us he loved us.

* * *

HE was the oldest of my siblings, but he was not my parents' first-born. Our brother Chip was born in Polomolok, Cotabato, about a year earlier but he died in infancy of gastroenteritis. Nono was born in 1942, just as World War II broke out, followed by my sister Neneng. At the onset of "Liberation," Nono and Neneng with my parents fled on foot from Polomolok to Davao, though when I tried to mine their memories for the Jimenez clan memoirs, both of them confessed to remembering nothing.

The two of them, though, got a kick out of their "exotic" origins and their spotty record of schooling, as they transferred from one school to another around the country, following Papa's military career. I remember feeling somewhat envious of their childhood adventures, since by the time I was born my parents had settled into bourgeois respectability in our family home in Cubao.

My childhood memories are of a home always full of people, many of them Nono's, Neneng's and later, Bo's and Manny's friends and gang mates. My memories of Nono's and Neneng's adolescence play like those black-and-white movies of teen-age escapades and youthful romance starring Susan Roces and Eddie Gutierrez. There were constant parties and dances, complete with what were then known as "combos."

* * *

NONO continued this tradition of filling up our home on Annapolis Street with people. No occasion was too trivial not to merit a pot-luck party or a full-blown catered affair, ostensibly hosted by Nono though the hard work of cooking, setting up the ambiance and perhaps cleaning up afterwards was carried out by his wife Soc and the household.

Nono and Soc opened their home to all comers. When our brother Father Boboy was still assigned to the Northern Philippines province of the SVD fathers, he found a home in Manila with Nono and Soc. Often, Father Boboy would bring along with him other SVD priests and even students and parish staff. One SVD priest recalled a stay in Cubao mainly because they were treated to exotic salads and sophisticated wines. Having gotten used to a diet of boiled vegetables and brown rice, their palates were unprepared for such elegant fare, he said. But he'd never forget those meals, he added.

Annapolis became a second home, as well, for Nono's and Soc's nephews and nieces. It was the usual setting for our annual Christmas Eve dinner, as well as for the Christmas Day gatherings of the Buenaventuras, Soc's family. When a family crisis erupted, or plans had to be made for a major occasion, we would receive a summons from Nono for a "meeting," meetings fueled by much banter and laughter but also by Soc's cooking.

* * *

IN HIS one-month stay at the hospital, we would receive frequent summonses from Nono, as he took a roller-coaster ride that saw him lurching from one health crisis to another. One day, he would be well enough to trade jokes with visitors, the next he would be rushed to the ICU. It was—and still is—a mystery to us how he could have been brought to the hospital for a chest ailment that escalated into pneumonia and ended in a verdict of "cardiac arrest secondary to multiple organ failure."

Our only comfort is that in the time he spent in hospital, Nono was able to make a confession, hear Mass and meet with friends and relatives. When I last talked with him, I urged him to get well so he could go home to Cubao where we would host a "welcome home" party for him. "Let's do that," he replied.

I tell friends that I have yet to make sense of God's plan for our family for He has taken three of my siblings in three years. Perhaps it's arrogance to demand logic or rationality from God. Discernment is a gift that is given only after the fact, and one needs to operate on faith—that God doesn't act on a whim, and that there is a pattern and a plan in His ways, even if we don't quickly see it from the ground.

So it is with faith that we bid our brother Nono farewell. Hang in there, Nonky, and please resist the urge to give new names to the angels and saints you meet in Heaven.

A history lesson for Koizumi

WORLD VIEW

Wenran Jiang

ONCE AGAIN, PROTESTS AGAINST JAPANESE Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's annual visit to the Yasukuni shrine are breaking out in China as well as South Korea. Koizumi's insistence on paying homage to the war dead interred at Yasukuni, where convicted war criminals from World War II are among the buried, has been damaging relations with Japan's neighbors for years. Indeed, Chinese President Hu Jintao continually affirms that he will not hold a summit with a Japanese prime minister who goes to Yasukuni, which most Chinese regard as a glorification of past Japanese aggression and colonialism.

Even some in Japan are becoming critical of Koizumi. While the public remains negative about Chinese outbursts against Japan, a recent survey indicates that more than 70 percent of Japanese view the current state of Japan-China relations as unacceptable. More people are not supporting Koizumi's annual pilgrimage to Yasukuni, with seven former prime ministers jointly demanding that he refrain from the visits.

Yet Koizumi remains defiant. Moreover, Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzu Abe, the front-runner to succeed him, has openly declared that he will continue to visit the shrine as prime minister. Foreign Minister Taro Aso, another possible successor to Koizumi, has called for the Japanese Emperor to pray at Yasukuni.

So pessimism appears to be settling in, and the deadlock over Yasukuni appears to be deepening. But the past can bring us more than just troubles of this kind. Even on the issue of Yasukuni, there are positive lessons to be learned.

Consider Yasuhiro Nakasone, Koizumi's predecessor in the 1980s. Both are master politicians who remained popular and served long terms in office. Both are conservative and nationalistic, advocating the revision of the constitution and an assertive political and military role for Japan abroad. Finally, both are pro-American, with Nakasone declaring Japan to be America's "unsinkable aircraft carrier" in East Asia and Koizumi sending troops to Iraq in support of the United States-led war effort.

But a crucial difference between Nakasone and Koizumi is often overlooked: their handling of the Yasukuni controversy and relations with China.

Nakasone broke the taboo by being the first prime minister to worship at the Yasukuni shrine in his official capacity on Aug. 15, 1985, the fortieth anniversary of the end of World War II. The decision triggered a severe response from China, where students held demonstrations against his visit. Bilateral relations were frozen.

But, instead of capitalizing on domestic resentment over China's criticisms, Nakasone decided not to visit Yasukuni again. He chose to mend relations with China by focusing on the positive aspects of bilateral ties. In 1986, Nakasone went to Beijing at the personal invitation of Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang and laid the cornerstone for a Sino-Japanese Youth Exchange Center, promising to forge future friendships with China.

This genuine embrace of reconciliation provided much-needed support to Chinese leaders, who were eager to control anti-Japanese sentiments. Hu praised Nakasone's courage and warned Chinese youth publicly that if they "think merely of the well-being of their own country ... they are not sober-minded patriots."

Nakasone emerged from the crisis and was recognized as a capable statesman in managing Japan's diplomacy with China. There was no accusation that Nakasone was "selling out" to Beijing. Nor were his conservative, nationalist and pro-American credentials damaged.

This episode suggests that Koizumi's hardline position isn't the only option. A Japanese prime minister can be strong without exploiting domestic resentment against the country's neighbors, and conservative, patriotic and pro-American while forging a healthy working relationship with China. Indeed, the cessation of Yasukuni visits would likely open the door to the long-overdue Sino-Japanese summit, which in turn might strengthen moderate voices in China seeking a future-oriented relationship with Japan.

Unfortunately, Koizumi and his allies are not prepared to move forward on the Yasukuni issue. As Foreign Minister Aso recently put it: "The more China voices [opposition], the more one feels like going there. It's just like when you're told 'Don't smoke cigarettes,' it actually makes you want to smoke."

No one expects the current Japanese and Chinese leaders to embrace, as Nakasone and Hu did two decades ago, but it is a sad state of affairs when the leaders of neighboring giants pretend not to see each other at international forums. If Nakasone, who now urges Koizumi to stop the Yasukuni pilgrimage, were to respond to Aso, he might simply extend the analogy: it is not in Japan's national interest to continue to inhale Koizumi's second-hand smoke.

Project Syndicate

Wenran Jiang is director of the China Institute at the University of Alberta and a senior fellow at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.

Fire and rain

YOUNG BLOOD

RB M Quindoza

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

"LA, PATAY NA SI MACEL. BINARIL KAHAPON."

That was the text message I received from my research partner in Davao. The person whom the message referred to was the same Macel I first met just two weeks earlier in Mindanao. I couldn't help but instantly relate her death to the growing number of political killings.

The news stories said the journalist-activist couple George and Maricel Vigo was gunned down near their home in Kidapawan, North Cotabato, by two motorcycle-riding men on June 19. To me, it was not just another death or another incident to add to the growing statistics of violent attacks on members of the media. It was a big loss.

I got the text message the day after the murder of the couple. That day I dropped by the university to get some documents. In the slight drizzle, I caught a glimpse of the fire trees that were abloom, all bursting with various shades of red and orange and complementing the green of other trees. The raindrops made the greens and oranges glow.

In the following days, follow-up reports on the slaying were published in the national and international press. The couple had worked as journalists and development workers. They were active in various issues such as environment, press freedom, rights of indigenous peoples, women, and children. Family members, friends, colleagues and mentors spoke of how dedicated they were in serving "the causes of the oppressed."

I join the many friends and supporters in condemning the attacks on local journalists and other critics, and the killers' disregard for press freedom and the right to life. And I add my voice to the call for a thorough investigation of the case, and for justice to the Vigos.

Macel and her husband were in our line-up of respondents/interviewees for a research project we conducted in Mindanao. We had planned to visit the couple in their Kidapawan home for the interview. But when Laine, my research partner, tried to set a schedule, Macel kindly told us that she would be in town at that time and would gladly sit for an interview.

The interview was scheduled between two meetings that Macel was attending that day. She was coming from a work-related meeting on solar services and, after the interview, she planned on attending an orientation for the parents of freshmen enrolled at the Philippine Science High School. So she had her son with her.

The interview with Macel was short, albeit a very substantial one. Having served as a local campaigner during the previous elections and spent many years in the mass movement, Macel shared with us her insights on local politics and political campaigns. Throughout the interview, she was smiling and answering our questions candidly. I could feel her concern and dismay over the way we conducted elections in this country, with all the fraud and violence attending them. But I could also see her sincere desire to continue working to make things a little better.

Since their murder, I have been following developments(?) on the case. Investigators are still looking at various leads and angles, according to Laine who still breaks into tears whenever we talk about the couple.

From the testimony of friends and colleagues of the couple and from our very short conversation, I can say that Macel (and I'm sure her husband, too) was like the fire tree that bursts with color in her dedication to her family, her work and her struggle. And just like the raindrops, her death will not put the fire out but instead make it glow even more. During the interview, her son Dennis was just as bright and spirited, throwing us some serious questions in return.

Weeks after the death of the Vigo couple, more journalists and leftist activists have also been killed. One media organization has counted more than 50 journalists killed since 1986 when democracy was restored in our country. About one-half of this happened in the last three years. And very few of these murders have been solved, while cases involving other forms of intimidation and violence have been rising.

Amid this raging fire, the President has given a 10-week deadline for the Department of Justice and the Philippine National Police "to jail suspects in at least 10 media or leftist killings." Earlier she had said in a televised address that she was condemning political killings "in the strongest terms."

But why only now? To this day, we continue to pray that the administration will finally exhibit some political will in stopping the killings and solving the earlier murders, which is of course the government's primary responsibility. As the government continues to fumble and fail in fulfilling this responsibility, journalists and activists must keep up the pressure to have justice done to the scores who have fallen.

RB M Quindoza, 28, works as a researcher in a non-government organization based in Quezon City.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Inherited fruits

"Before me, my grandfather and my father also tilled the piece of land I'm currently farming. Now I'm accused of robbing the fruits of labor of my whole clan."
—Henaro Saul, one of the 100 farmers belonging to the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Bondoc Peninsula who surrendered to the police to face 187 criminal charges filed against them by landowners.

Ironic plea

"It may really be an irony that we are now asking justice from the government, which we also have been pointing to as being the possible perpetrator of these killings. But we believe it is the government's responsibility to bring justice to the victims and their families."
—John Concepcion, spokesperson of Karapatan-Bikol, on the killings of unarmed militants.

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A crime against humanity

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

AN OIL SPILL THAT POISONS THE ocean, kills fish, vegetation, coral reefs and marine life, and chokes beaches, rivers and swamps is a crime against humanity in general and against the people in the polluted areas, in particular.

Thus the oil seepage from the tanker, which sank off Guimaras Island at the center of the Visayas this August, is an unforgivable crime against the people and the environment. As of Aug. 16, the oil spill has covered 24 sq km and is approaching Boracay, the famous tourism resort noted for its white, pristine beaches.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources should not be the only agency that should bear the brunt of fighting the oil spill. The National Disaster Coordinating Council should also take firm action.

It's good that the Philippine Coast Guard has finally taken action to clean up the spill although the effort has been hampered by heavy seas caused by the inclement weather. The Department of Transportation and Communications should likewise take immediate action to investigate the accident and pinpoint responsibility. And it should strictly impose international standards in the operation of vessels, especially oil tankers that carry millions of liters of bunker oil. I learned that the tanker, owned by Sunshine Maritime Development Corporation, is not doubled-hulled. The international Marpol agreement requires double-hulled vessels for oil transport. The Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) should step in to ensure that this regulation is enforced.

The major oil companies, like Petron and Caltex, should also exhibit social responsibility by insisting that their bunker oil importations are carried only by vessels that are double-hulled. The overriding concern of the private corporations should not only be profit, but also the well-being of the people through a healthy environment. Of what use are profits if the environment is ruined? Will corporate stockholders and executives benefit from the wasted lives of a people whose health is ruined by a polluted environment?

In the long run, it is the government that must see to it that the environment is kept pure and healthy so that its citizens can also enjoy a happy and healthy life.

—REYNER VILLASEÑOR,
College of Political Science,
University of Sto. Tomas, Manila

Libelous slur against IBP

IN THE LAST 7 MONTHS, VICTOR Agustin has slandered the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) and myself as IBP national president in at least four of his columns. Please allow me to initially respond to the first two. (PDI, 12/23/05 and 12/26/05)

Last Jan. 9, lawyer Rose Reyes, former chair of the Commission on Bar Discipline (CBD), wrote Agustin to clarify some issues he raised in those columns. We waited in vain for him to present our side. Instead, he resumed his calumnious attacks against us.

Agustin accused the IBP of resorting to "legal legerdemain" to protect Lokin, by not furnishing the complainant with the IBP's decision, and that the IBP nebulously explained the one-year delay in its release.

Agustin's accusation that the IBP resorted to "legerdemain," which is defined as "sleight of hand," is libelous. The IBP could not transmit a copy of the decision because it was still awaiting the recommendation from CBD Director Rogelio Vinluan. The recommendation must be with the IBP decision when the latter is served to the parties of the case. Therefore, it cannot be said there was a delay in the release of the decision.

Like all the other officers and governors of the IBP, lawyer Vinluan is a full-time practicing lawyer and works at the IBP on a voluntary basis. The IBP is a private organization of lawyers, and is prohibited by its by-laws to hire full-time lawyers. Despite this limitation, the IBP receives every year almost a thousand complaints against lawyers and resolves almost as many in any given year.

Ms Bildner was not prejudiced because under the Rules of Court, she has 60 days from receipt of the IBP's decision and recommendation to appeal to the Supreme Court. In fact, the complainant appealed to the Court even before she received copies of same, and the high court took cognizance of her appeal.

Contrary to the claim of Agustin, the omission of the phrase "any person" was not intended. As Vinluan had explained, it was a typographical error. The rules state, "Upon the verified complaint of any person." In legal norm, "verified" generally requires personal knowledge.

It is also false for Agustin to say that I rebuffed the complainant "by claiming that (she) had no legal personality to pursue the complaint, and that the appeal had been filed past the deadline." I never made such a claim. It was respondent Lokin who said it. Please see par. 2, p. 9 of the 14 December 2005 decision.

—JOSE ANSELMO I. CADIZ
former national president,
Integrated Bar of the Philippines

Dispute in democracy

THIS REFERS TO MANUEL L. QUEZON III'S pitiful defense of the "gay" community in his Aug. 14 column.

He brands Justice Isagani Cruz—for having pointed out in his column the dangers of quietly accepting the growing trend to glorify and exploit homosexuals in virtually all facets of society, especially in the media. (Practically all locally produced television programs today feature homosexuals, as if this were a guarantee of high ratings)—as a "bigot" and "grand inquisitor."

Quezon both overreacts and exaggerates. He is evidently hurt and angry, and has even declared that he "will not embrace him, not for that, much less shake his hand or offer him the opportunity for civilized disagreement," in obvious reference to Cruz.

I do not write this to defend Justice Cruz. I am certain he is more than capable of defending himself against Quezon's hysterical posturings.

Voicing out unspoken (or unwritten) truths should not, and can never, be considered as bigotry in a democracy. It appears clear that Quezon does not, or refuses to, understand the essence of the freedom of expression. Is he himself a bigot, who would shun honest views on his "gender?"

My advice to Quezon is this—learn to "disagree without being disagreeable."

—CRISOSTOMO YBAÑEZ,
crisostomoybanez@yahoo.com

Also a loss for ordinary folk

IT IS VERY UNFORTUNATE THAT RAmon Tulfo has lost both his radio and television programs which were meant to assist and protect ordinary people who have no influence.

The two programs he hosted, undoubtedly, enabled ordinary Filipinos to get the assistance or services they needed, which, ironically, government had failed to provide. With his two programs gone, these people no longer have someone with whom they can confide their grievances and seek assistance for immediate government action on their complaints.

In other words, it is not only Tulfo who is the loser here; it is also the less fortunate and non-influential ordinary Filipinos, whose grievances can no longer be given due attention and justice in the way they did through Tulfo's radio and TV shows.

—PETE ILAGAN

Clarifying the issues on Biak na Bato reservation

I WISH TO CLARIFY SOME POINTS that Horacio Ramos of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau raised in his letter (PDI, 7/25/06) with respect to quarry permits in the Biak na Bato Mineral Reservation Area.

1. On the authority of the governor to issue permits. The provincial government of Bulacan recognizes the limitation of its authority to issue mining/quarry permits covering established government reservations. For this reason, the governor, prior to the approval of any mining/quarry permit, sees to it that all statutory processes are met. She does this through the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board (PMRB).

For the record, no existing mining permit covering any part of a government reservation has been issued by the incumbent governor.

If the DENR claims otherwise, why do they have an existing 25-year Mining Lease Contract (MRD-509) granted to ORO Development Corporation in the same area. If the DENR does not have the technology to verify this information, we are more than willing to lend our satellite-based Geographical Information System for their use.

2. On the alleged jurisdiction and control of the governor over the PMRB. This board is an independent collegial body chaired by the regional director of DENR-MGB. Its members come from the ranks of large-scale mining operators, small-scale miners association and non-government organizations. I am the only one in the PMRB who represents the governor. Ramos' statement casts doubt on the integrity of all members of the PMRB.

3. On the issuance of ECCs. Ramos' statement on this matter implicitly mocks the devolution of a DENR function to the local government. It is inconsistent with the mandate of the Local Government Code regarding continuing devolution. In any case, The League of Provinces of the Philippines will deal with the DENR regarding this issue separately as it affects not only Bulacan but all other provinces in the country as well.

4. On mining permits inside Biak-na-Bato. We reiterate that there is no existing mining permit inside Biak-na-Bato. The permits that Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes "cancelled" last July 12 had expired even before he became DENR secretary. Some of the permits were issued not even by the incumbent governor but by her predecessor.

We regret the seeming endless disinformation campaign being waged against the provincial government of Bulacan.

We do not wish to be a party to DENR efforts to "smokescreen" the real issue—that Rosemoor Mining and Development Corp. illegally acquired a Mining Production Sharing Agreement from the DENR. This is the issue the department has failed to answer to date.

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan has requested the Senate to investigate this matter. We welcome an investigation so that once and for all my office and the members of the PMRB can have the opportunity to set the records straight.

—RICARDO C. MEDINA JR.,
head, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, Bulacan

Not a stupid people

WHEN MALACAÑANG DECLARED all-out war against the communist insurgents and encouraged Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan to continue his "campaign" against the activists, militants and critics of the administration, it only unmasked an illegitimate president's inability to govern this strife-torn country. Why does GMA seem tolerant about the political murders?

When members of left-leaning organizations get murdered, military authorities are quick to wash their hands like Pontius Pilate did in the trial and crucifixion of Jesus. They tell the people that the killings are the handiwork of the rebels themselves. They issue press statements blaming the rebels as the perpetrators, when in fact, most people are of the idea that the crime has been committed by the so-called "death squads" of Palparan.

Well, the people aren't stupid.

—ROY A. GERSALIA, 411 L. Grafilo St., Zone 5, Bulan, Sorsogon

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros , Manila

D.O.L.E. CIRCULAR No. 1
Series of 2006

ADMINISTRATIVE INTERVENTION FOR DISPUTE AVOIDANCE

In line with the objectives of Republic Act No. 9285, Executive Order No. 523 dated 07 April 2006, and the mandate of the Department of Labor and Employment to promote industrial peace, this administrative procedure for the voluntary settlement of labor disputes is hereby established.

1. Either or both the employer and the certified collective bargaining agent (or the representative of the employees where there is no certified bargaining agent) may voluntarily bring to the Office of the Secretary of Labor and Employment, through a REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION, any potential or ongoing dispute defined below.

   A potential or ongoing dispute refers to:

   a. a live and active dispute;
   b. that may lead to a strike or lockout or to massive labor unrest; and
   c. is not the subject of any complaint or notice of strike or lockout at the time a REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION is made.

   This recourse is separate from the established dispute resolution modes of mediation, conciliation and arbitration under the Labor Code, and is an alternative to other voluntary modes of dispute resolution such as the voluntary submission of a dispute to the Regional Director for mediation, to the National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB) for preventive mediation, or to the intervention of a regional or local tripartite peace council for the same purpose.

2. All REQUESTS shall be in writing and filed with the Office of the Secretary. A REQUEST shall state:

   a. the name and address of the employer;
   b. the name of the certified bargaining agent, or the employee representative duly designated in writing by a majority of the employees where there is no collective bargaining agent;
   c. the number of employees affected by the potential or ongoing dispute;
   d. a brief description of the potential or ongoing dispute.

3. Upon receipt of the REQUEST, the Office of the Secretary shall forthwith notify the parties and invite them for conference.

   The conference for REQUESTS coming from the National Capital Region, Regions III, IV-A or IV-B shall be held at the Office of the Secretary of Labor and Employment unless the Secretary otherwise directs. The conference for REQUESTS coming from the other regions shall be conducted by the Regional Director for the Secretary.

4. The Office of the Secretary or the Regional Director, in the proper case, shall proceed to intervene after the parties shall have manifested that:

   a. they voluntarily submit their potential or ongoing dispute to intervention by the Office of the Secretary of Labor and Employment;
   b. there is no pending notice of strike or lockout or any related complaint in relation with their potential or ongoing dispute;
   c. they shall refrain from any strike or lockout or any form of work stoppage or from filing any related complaint while the Secretary's intervention is in effect; and
   d. they shall abide by the agreement reached, whose terms may be enforced through the appropriate writs issued by the Secretary of Labor and Employment.

   All agreements settling the dispute shall be in writing and signed by the parties as well as the official who mediated the dispute.

5. The parties and officials or employees of the Department of Labor and Employment who took part in the intervention proceedings shall not testify in any court or body regarding the disclosures, submissions or positions made by the parties in these proceedings.

6. If the intervention fails, either or both parties may avail themselves of the remedies provided under the Labor Code. Alternatively, the parties may submit their dispute to the Office of the Secretary for voluntary arbitration.

   Such voluntary arbitration shall be limited to the issues defined in the parties' submission to voluntary arbitration agreement and shall be decided on the basis of the parties' position papers and submitted evidence.

   The Office of the Secretary shall resolve the dispute within sixty (60) days from the parties' submission of the dispute for resolution.

7. This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

   Done in the City of Manila, Philippines, 11 August 2006.

(Sgd.) **ARTURO D. BRION**
Secretary

(PDI) – August 22, 2006

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Chavit wants Poro Pt. deal nullified

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and TJ Burgonio

ILOCOS SUR GOV. LUIS "Chavit" Singson, a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, yesterday came out in the open to campaign to rescind a 25-year contract held by a joint venture firm to operate the Poro Point seaport.

Singson, in a government-sponsored forum at the Manila Hotel, said he was campaigning to rescind the contract as the chair of the Regional Development Council in Northern Luzon.

He denied earlier that he was behind the government bid to take over the operations of the port from the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC), a joint venture company formed by Bulk Handlers Inc. (BHI) and the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).

Lawyer Brigido Dulay, PPIC legal counsel, said forcibly rescinding the 25-year contract at Singson's behest would damage the credibility of President Macapagal-Arroyo among local and foreign investors.

"It will be viewed as a last-ditch attempt on the part of BCDA to extricate itself from contractual commitments that it cannot fulfill. We urge them not to betray the ethical standards of the legal profession by taking an action that could be viewed as bereft of sound legal basis," Dulay said in a statement.

Narciso Abaya, BCDA president, earlier said during a visit to the INQUIRER that the PPIC contract to run the port was valid, although the PPIC needed to acquire an environmental compliance certificate to heed a Department of Environment and Natural Resources order.

Singson said he has no personal or business interest in the campaign to rescind the PPIC contract, which he described as lopsided. He said his concern was the region's economic development.

He said he already discussed the issue with Ms Arroyo but won't say what the President told him.

He said the contract was not bid out during the time of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

But while Singson claimed that BHI was powerful and influential to keep its contract alive even after the ouster of President Estrada, PPIC's lawyers noted that it was Singson's relatives that dominate the board and that they have been relentless in pressuring a change in Poro Point management since 2001.

Singson accused BHI of reneging on its commitment to invest P840 million to develop the seaport. But Dulay countered that it was the BCDA that fell short on its promise to deliver 80 hectares of land inside the port complex for development into an industrial complex over the last few years.

Singson said the contract of the PPIC was a "sweetheart deal during the time of former President Joseph Estrada," whom Singson helped oust on charges of corruption.

The Senate is set to investigate the alleged "military-style" takeover of the seaport in San Fernando by the Philippine Ports Authority, together with the BCDA, Philippine National Police and the DENR, last Aug. 5.

The takeover had been apparently prompted by PPIC's lack of environmental compliance certificate.

Abaya said that he did not order the PPA to take over the port, but merely asked it "to ensure that no disruptions would happen in the port's operations."

Firm says pressure strong for gov't lawyers to void contract

THE LEGAL COUNSEL OF THE Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC), the joint venture firm that operates the Poro Point seaport, said the architects of a campaign to rescind the PPIC's 25-year contract to run the port is moving "heaven and earth" to reverse an opinion of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) supporting the validity of the contract.

In a statement, Brigido Dulay said Narciso Abaya, president of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), has now moved to get the OGCC to issue an opinion that the contract was null and void after government efforts to take over the port were heavily criticized.

Abaya said in a visit to the INQUIRER last week that what he did was to merely ensure that the port operations were not disrupted as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued a cease-and-desist order on the basis of the PPIC's lack of an environmental compliance certificate.

Dulay said the OGCC, backed by legal studies from both BCDA and OGCC lawyers, had upheld the validity of the contract.

He said the only reason he sees the OGCC reversing itself is political pressure.

But he said should this happen, "it will send signals to the business community that when the government cannot fulfill its obligations to investor-partners, government lawyers simply would declare the agreements void."

Dulay said the BCDA knew it cannot deliver its commitment to release a total of 80 hectares to the PPIC. Abaya, however, said it was not enough reason for the Bulk Handlers Inc., owner of 70 percent of PPIC, not to proceed with its development plans.

The PPIC legal counsel said a demand letter by BHI for BCDA compliance with its commitments in January this year "may have triggered events leading to the violent takeover of Poro Point seaport last Aug. 5." *Gil Cabacungan Jr. and TJ Burgonio*

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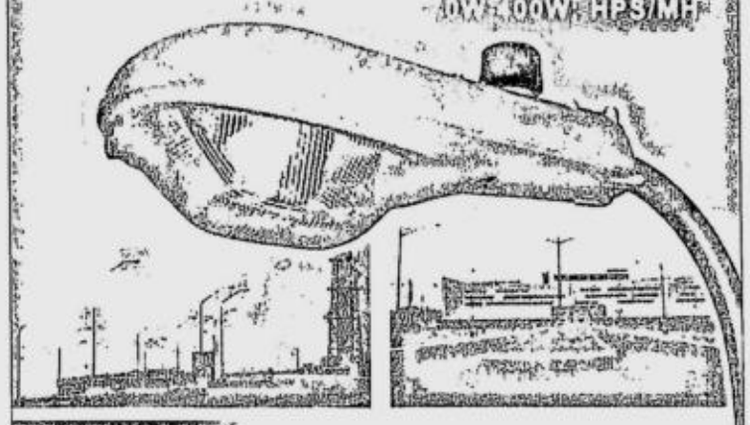

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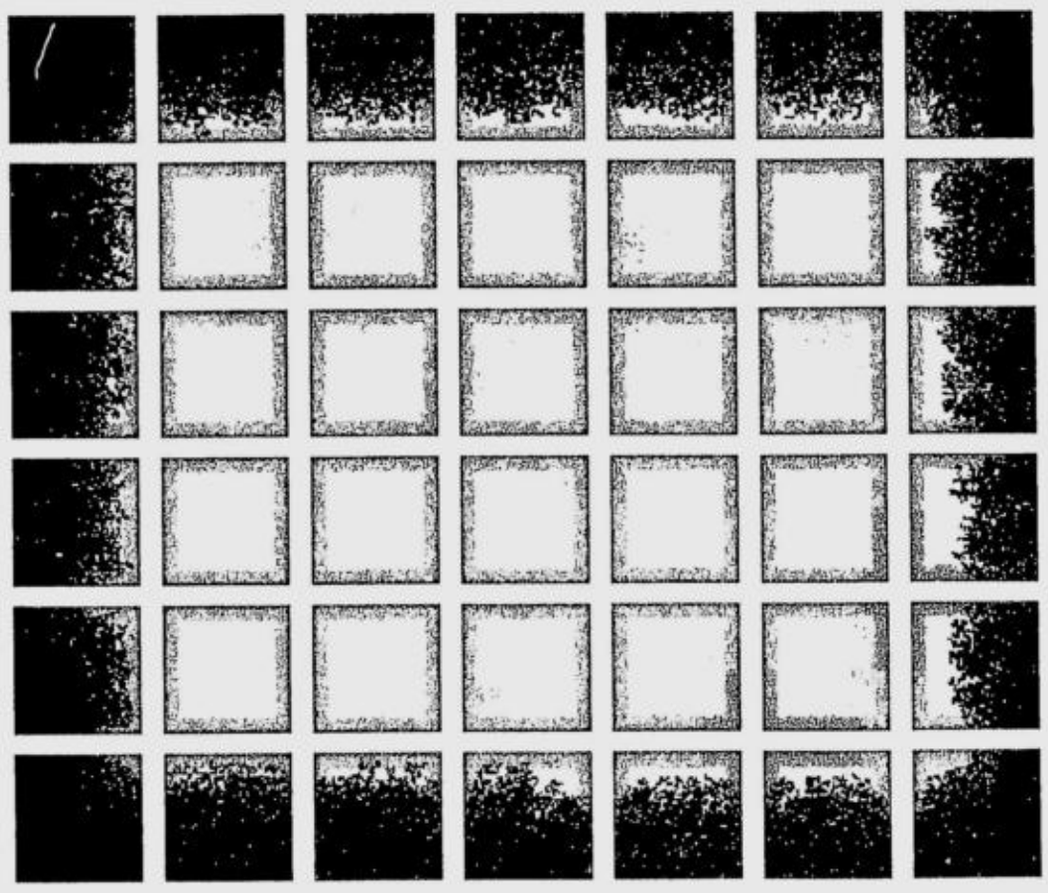

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27M kg of RP onions may rot due to imports

By Anselmo Roque
Inquirer Central Luzon

CABANATUAN CITY—ABOUT 27 million kilograms of onions produced in four provinces in the country remain dormant in storage and may not likely be sold at all because of the flooding of the market with imported onions.

At P30 a kilogram for production cost and storage, these onions have a total value of P810 million or a minimum of P1.28 billion if sold at the market at P40 a kilogram.

The importation of the onions, according to the Union of Growers and Traders of Onions in the Philippines (Ugat), was done through the issuance of importation permits by the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI).

"We have found... that more than two million bags (at 20 kilograms per bag) of onions have been imported since January," Magtanggol Alvarez, founding chair of Ugat, told the INQUIRER.

"The issuance of permits to import onion was done hastily although our onion harvests have yet to enter the market."

He said he and other Ugat officers have copies of the list of businessmen, mostly Chinese, who were issued permits to import onions. In July alone, 77 permits were issued by the BPI, he said.

Each holder of the permits, he said, is allowed to import as much as 50,000 kilograms of onions.

Alvarez said the issuance of the permits was done without consultation with the growers and traders of onions.

Last year, BPI officials, in a meeting with Ugat officers and provincial officials, agreed to consult onion growers and traders about the onion situation in the country before any permit would be issued.

"We were not consulted," Alvarez said. "They used the initial reports on onion destruction in December and early January due to calamity as a justification for the need to import onions. They did not consider the fact that farmers plant onions in January in time for harvest before the rainy season."

When the onions planted in January were harvested, the market was already flooded with imported onions, he said.

He said onions harvested by 1,000 Ugat members are now stored in cold storage plants. Members pay a fee of up to P180 per bag for up to eight months of storage.

Ugat members are scattered in Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Nueva Vizcaya and Mindoro. Nueva Ecija accounts for at least 75 percent of the onions produced in the country.

Alvarez said production cost totals from P85,000 to P90,000 a hectare. Those planting onions in November use the yellow variety and those in January use the red variety.

Imported onions, which come mostly from India and China, have a landed cost of P300 per bag or P15 a kilogram. They are then sold in the market at P18-P20 a kilogram.

"Onion production in those countries is highly subsidized by their governments while our onion growers are on their own," Alvarez said.

He said Ugat is appealing to President Macapagal-Arroyo to do something about the onion production and marketing in the country.

NAUSEA
ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

A child passes by a row of spades that are being readied for the use of workers trying to remove by hand a massive oil spill that wrought havoc on the shores and water of Guimaras. Residents of the areas that suffered from the spill get P200 a day to help in the cleanup.

₱30,000 dangled to Vizcaya board members for STL

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZcaya—Members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) here have been offered P30,000 each in exchange for their approval of the operations of Small Town Lottery (STL) in the province, an official disclosed yesterday.

A board member, who asked not to be named for fear of reprisal from his colleagues, made the disclosure following what he described as "intense lobbying" by a certain Cesar Palma, who was reportedly granted a franchise to operate the STL in Nueva Vizcaya.

"The applicant has even been doing house-to-house campaign among board members. (The lobbying) has become insulting. These people apparently think they can buy all of us (in the SP)," the official said.

Palma could not be reached for comment. Board members said they did not know his contact numbers.

Sanctioned by the state-owned Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), the STL was devised to be used as an alternative to the illegal numbers game "jueteng," which continued to operate in many parts of Luzon.

Based on PCSO guidelines, STL applicants need to get an endorsement from the SP before they can start operations.

Palma's application came on the heels of the controversial passage by the provincial peace and order council of a resolution requesting the PCSO to start STL operations in Nueva Vizcaya.

The board is set to deliberate during its regular session on Wednesday Palma's application after he posted a P20-million bond with the PCSO, the source said.

"The offer is being passed on to board members very discreetly. I hear some SP members have received their share, which explains why they are so aggressive in pushing for its approval," the source added.

Sought for comment, Vice Gov. Jose Gambito, SP presiding officer, said it was possible that the proposal was made but he denied that the members would receive the supposed offer.

Board members contacted by the INQUIRER either said they did not know about the supposed negotiations or declined to comment on the disclosure.

Palma's STL application is the second to be received by the SP since the game's introduction.

In June, the application of Mayor Alfredo Castillo of Alfonso Castañeda town failed to get the SP approval. Instead, the board passed a resolution asking the PCSO to spare the province from the dry-run operations of the STL.

BI office probed for human smuggling, extort racket

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—JUSTICE SECRETary Raul Gonzalez said the Bureau of Immigration (BI) in Central Visayas is facing investigation for alleged human smuggling and other criminal activities.

Gonzalez said he had sent recently a team of investigators to Cebu to investigate the alleged involvement of some officials of the BI Central Visayas in the entry of undocumented aliens.

Gonzalez, in an interview yesterday, said that an intelligence team from his office conducted the investigation after he got several written complaints from identified and anonymous complainants about the alleged money-making activities of the BI regional officials.

"But this is not only in Central Visayas, this is everywhere. This is our No. 1 problem—this supposed human smuggling, especially illegal aliens who are coming here," Gonzalez said.

Based on the confidential documents given to the different media outlets in Cebu, the anonymous complainant has linked several immigration personnel to the alleged human smuggling here.

The complainant alleged that immigration officials charge between P400,000 to P600,000 in exchange for the entry of undocumented aliens, including Indian and Pakistani nationals.

According to the complaint, these Indian and Pakistani nationals have contacts with the Indian community in Cebu City while the leader of the community has contacts within the immigration office.

The anonymous complainant said that an immigration staffer will be waiting at the airport, ready to escort these undocumented aliens outside the airport, where they will board a vehicle that will take them to their destination.

The undocumented aliens are reportedly required to pay monthly payola or face deportation, the complainant added.

The complainant also alleged that the same immigration officials also extort between P200,000 to P300,000 from undocumented Chinese and Koreans.

The complaint also cited other alleged money-making schemes, such as arresting foreigners for violation of immigration laws but with the intention of extorting money.

In a separate interview, acting BI regional chief Director Geronimo Rosas challenged his critics to prove the alleged irregularities in his office.

"They should prove it and put evidence in their accusation," Rosas said.

He said his office is very transparent.

Gonzalez said Rosas had already submitted his answer to the complaints last Friday.

ROUNDUP

Ex-vice mayor slain

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Former vice mayor Edwin Vidal of El Nido, Palawan was shot dead early yesterday by unidentified gunmen. Vidal and his wife, Juliet, were sleeping in their bedroom at around 3 a.m. when the gunmen opened fire at them, said Provincial Information Officer Rolando Bonoan Jr. The perpetrators shot the former vice mayor through a window that they forced open, Bonoan added. The former vice mayor was declared dead at the Taytay town hospital while his wife was declared in stable condition. Vidal suffered three gunshot wounds but "there were no witnesses so far," in the killing, said Bonoan. According to authorities, political rivalry is an unlikely motive in the killing as Vidal had no known enemies. Vidal was reportedly being convinced to run anew as vice mayor and was given an assurance of heavy financial support by a running mate, added authorities. El Nido is small town in Northern Palawan famous for its beaches, coral reefs and high-end resorts. It is also the town that claims territorial jurisdiction over the Camago-Malampaya natural gas project.

Jofelle P. Tesorio, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Rebs raid village hall

BACOLOD CITY—COMMUNIST rebels seized five high-powered firearms during a raid in a barangay hall serving as headquarters of the environmental watchdog Bantay Dagat in Toboso town, 114.5 km north of here, on Sunday. Nine of the 30 New People's Army (NPA) members destroyed the padlock of the Salamanca barangay hall at about 8:30 a.m. and took a Thompson submachine gun, a Carbine rifle, and an Icom radio, police said. The rest of the group posted themselves outside the hall. The rebels also took an M-16 rifle with six magazines from the nearby house of the barangay chair, Ereberto Baynosa Sr.

Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

Hospital supply donated

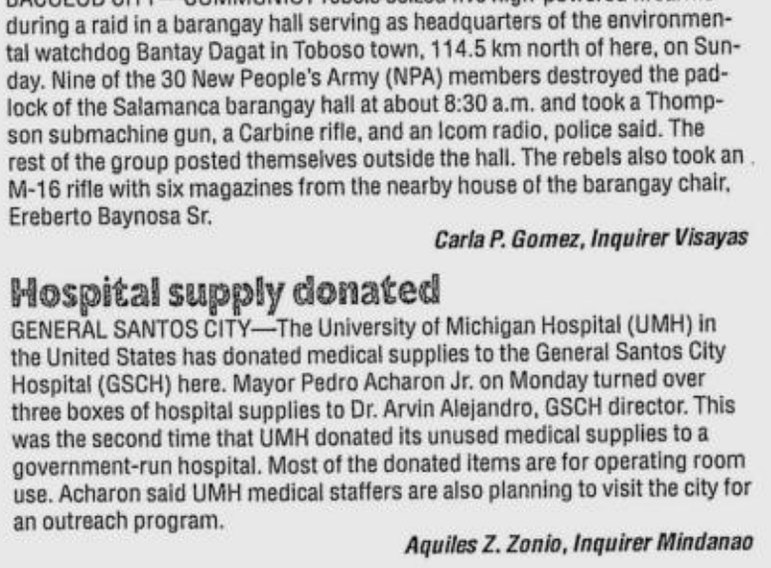
GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The University of Michigan Hospital (UMH) in the United States has donated medical supplies to the General Santos City Hospital (GSCH) here. Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. on Monday turned over three boxes of hospital supplies to Dr. Arvin Alejandro, GSCH director. This was the second time that UMH donated its unused medical supplies to a government-run hospital. Most of the donated items are for operating room use. Acharon said UMH medical staffers are also planning to visit the city for an outreach program.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao

P145M in logs seized

BUTUAN CITY—SOME 15,800 logs worth about P145 million were seized by a local antigraft watchdog and the Manila-based National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force (Naectf) in Barangay Amparo here over the weekend. Arnulfo Simine, spokesperson of the Bantay Bayan watchdog, said the logs were found floating on the Agusan River at its monitoring outpost. They were believed to have been illegally cut. Simine said the logs, with an estimated volume of more than 10,000 cubic meters, included lauan and falcata species. They were supposed to be brought to wood processing firms here, he said. He, however, would not say who owns the logs as an investigation was still ongoing. "The shipment of logs of this magnitude could not happen without the blessings of ranking environment officials," Simine said.

Franklin A. Caliguid, Inquirer Mindanao



SEIZED logs, including lauan and falcata, float on the river in Barangay Amparo in Butuan. FRANKLIN CALIGUID/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Benguet co-op told to return P33M in overcharges

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE Energy Regulatory Commission is under fire from Northern Luzon electric cooperatives for changing the rules on the collection of the old purchased power adjustment (PPA), which now leaves them owing their customers over P100 million in alleged over collections.

Rodolfo Albano, ERC chair, ordered the Benguet Electric Cooperative, in a July 15 directive, to remit P33.9 million in "over recovery" collections for 1999 and 2004 because, he said, the firm used a PPA formula of the former Energy Regulatory Board. Beneco supplies power to this city and 13 Benguet towns.

ERC also ordered another electric cooperative based in the Ilocos region to remit P100 million to its consumers for the same reason.

Gerardo Versoza, Beneco general manager, said Albano's decision caught by surprise nine cooperatives representing the northwestern Luzon cluster, because ERC never advised them that it had been imposing a new system for computing the old PPA.

THE COST of power is getting higher as maintaining power lines, as these crewmen are doing in a Makati City transmission area, add to various other expenses that are passed on to consumers. INQUIRER PHOTO

The PPA is a mechanism used by the industry to recover the fluctuating costs of oil and power purchased from the National Power Corp. and private generation firms like the independent power producers.

It became controversial because critics said the PPA includes portions of Napocor's debts, which are passed on to consumers.

President Macapagal-Arroyo tried to cushion the public backlash against the PPA in 2002 by setting the PPA cap at 40 centavos.

ERC took over from the ERB and replaced the PPA with the generation rate adjustment mechanism (GRAM), and again last year with the automatic generation rate adjustment (Agra).

Albano's order said ERC "adopted a new set of PPA policy guidelines" on Jan. 14, 2005 that aimed to correct the ERB-designed PPA formula by reflecting the "true" cost of each cooperative's systems loss.

"The order was the first time we were advised of a new PPA formula. We are not challenging the new policy, but why were we not consulted, when all we were following was the mechanism designed by ERB so we could pass on to the consumers the extra charges imposed by Napocor?" Versoza said.

Albano's order also cited a March 20, 2000 ERB ruling "confirming that Beneco's PPA covering the period February 1996 to December 1998 had resulted in an over-recover of P17 million."

Beneco is appealing Albano's decision. It said Albano's order was "patently erroneous and had no legal basis."

The Supreme Court recently reversed an ERC ruling that allowed the Manila Electric Co. to increase its rates in 2004 without public hearing.

"EDSA II BABIES": (From left) Levie Cequeña, CP Calma, Harvey Keh, Jay-Ryan Trinidad and Jaymee de la Cruz. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

5 youths raise hope with voters' drive

From page A1

the group thought of the campaign to prevent another political crisis from happening in the country.

"Let's get involved," she said, addressing the youth. "We can't go on taking to the streets, impeaching a president, or staging a coup forever. We might as well go out and be counted in the voting precincts and choose a leader whenever there is an election."

In a way, Cequeña said, this is the group's response to the challenge of Aquino, the leading opposition figure during Ferdinand Marcos' regime who was assassinated on the tarmac of the Manila International Airport (now the Ninoy Aquino International Airport) upon his arrival from exile 23 years ago.

A question of hope

"Is the Filipino worth dying for? Yes," she said. "I think this question is about hope."

Conceptualized in November last year, Voices intends to make voter registration an "exciting phase" in a youth's life—a "rite of passage," it said—a trip back to a time when becoming a voter was a cause for celebration.

Together with various student organizations, Voices will be launched nationwide through a series of activities, including a leadership training course by the Ayala Young Leaders Congress and a concert titled "NewGenRocks" featuring an all-youth band, starting next month.

Similar events will take place in Baguio City, also in September; Dumaguete City in October, and Davao City in November. Ultimately, they will converge in Metro Manila by December.

"It's an ambitious project to rally the youth and to open their eyes to the immense power that they are holding in their hands just by registering, just by voting," said Keh, a theology teacher at Ateneo and executive director of Pathways, a nongovernment organization helping poor students get a college education.

"If they will just do that, allot three hours of their time to register, to vote, they can make things happen and can actually be agents of change for the country," added Calma, a social science graduate from the Ateneo.

The program will encourage young voters to believe in themselves, in their ability to contribute to the pursuit of national change, and regain faith in the nation.

Youth empowerment

In other words, said Trinidad, "this is all about youth empowerment."

The United Nations defines the youth as any person between 15 and 25 years old. According to the National Statistics Office, as of 2004, there were 15,086,701 texting, fun-loving Filipino youths, which can become a potent force for effective reform in the country.

By registering, Trinidad said, the young people could help direct the future of the country.

The "Edsa II Babies" thought of such a campaign when they felt a void in the youth's role in nation-building.

"We were then looking for programs we can do to again tap the immense power of the youth in changing the country. I say again because we have seen the power of the youth about six years ago when Edsa II happened," Keh said. The military-backed "people power" uprising dubbed "Edsa II" ousted President Joseph Estrada from Malacañang in 2001.

"Since then, I think, there has been a void," Cequeña said. "It might be because of the way the government has been run ('Hello Garci' tape scandal, Vicky Toh, use of fertilizer funds in the election campaign, the Oakwood mutiny, etc.), but the thing with me is that I don't believe in excuses."

Changes in system

Cequeña said she wanted to see results or changes in the political system.

"I have always lived by the principle that if you want things to happen, you act on it, right there and then. Impulsive? Yes. Brash even. But in this fast-paced society, you sometimes need to do things differently to rally and influence people. Or you'll end up being one of the many who waits on things to happen until he realizes he's too old to start doing things," she said.

Trinidad, a law student at De La Salle University, said there were three doctors and eight nurses in his clan, most of them abroad or about to go abroad. It's a "sad reality," he said, "that most Filipinos want to go abroad for greener pastures."

He said he wanted to break the chain. If he can help it, he won't leave the country. "I took up political science despite persuasion from my family to take up nursing instead," he said.

When she joined Voices, De la Cruz, a business graduate of University of Asia and the Pacific, said she was reminded of a professor who required his students to show proof that they registered for the 2004 elections.

"He devoted a class to discuss why we should register. And so, everyone in the class did register, showed our teacher proof of this registration, and got perfect scores in the quiz," she said.

Vote counts

"I believe NewGen can make the youths realize that their vote counts. In a democratic country such as ours, electing the right leaders is vital. And this is something that they still have to believe in no matter what. There is no room for apathy, especially from them who are the supposed hope of this country," she said.

"I believe that the only way that this country can truly develop itself is with the help of the youth but it will not happen if the youth will just be mere fence sitters. They will really think of the country first. They will not desire power but will desire to serve."

She added: "I believe that this country does not stand a chance to have better leaders. Hence, voter's education is truly necessary."

The group has sought support from about 50 corporations, but only fewer than a dozen responded, all of which offered anything but cash.

But Cequeña said it was better that the group start talking to youth leaders now than later.

"I know it will take a long time before we can really see a leader who will make this country really great again, but while we waited for it to come, we will have to do our share," she said.

Cory prays for Gloria, as she did for Marcos

From page A1

thought he could awaken the Filipino people when at that time everybody was scared to even say hello to me and our children when we saw them outside," she said.

"But he said all it needs is for one person to [effect] courage," said Aquino, dressed in her signature yellow dress.

Benigno Aquino was incarcerated for seven years and seven months before he was allowed to go to the United States to undergo heart surgery. Three years later, on Aug. 21, 1983, he was gunned down at the Manila airport on his return to mobilize the divided opposition against the Marcos regime. His murder galvanized a protest movement that led to Marcos' ouster in 1986 and the installation of his widow as President.

The 73-year-old Aquino vowed to continue to give her all for the country just as she had promised her husband when she kissed him for the last time at his funeral.

"I promised him that I will continue to work for the restoration of our democracy. But I really had no idea how I was going to do it. I just felt that I had to tell him that," she said.

"And I know so many things would have not been possible if there had not been people like you who were so ready and willing to make sacrifices," she said, addressing in the rain a crowd of about 100 composed of her family, relatives and friends.

She also encouraged all Filipinos to pray for Ms Arroyo as she had prayed for Marcos when her husband was incarcerated.

Pray for each other

"I think it is important for all of us Filipinos to pray for each other. Certainly all of us need prayers. Given that it is the President who has the biggest job to do, it is fitting that we all pray for her," Ms Aquino later told reporters.

Ms Aquino is one of the leaders of a movement seeking the resignation of Ms Arroyo over allegations she stole the 2004 presidential election.

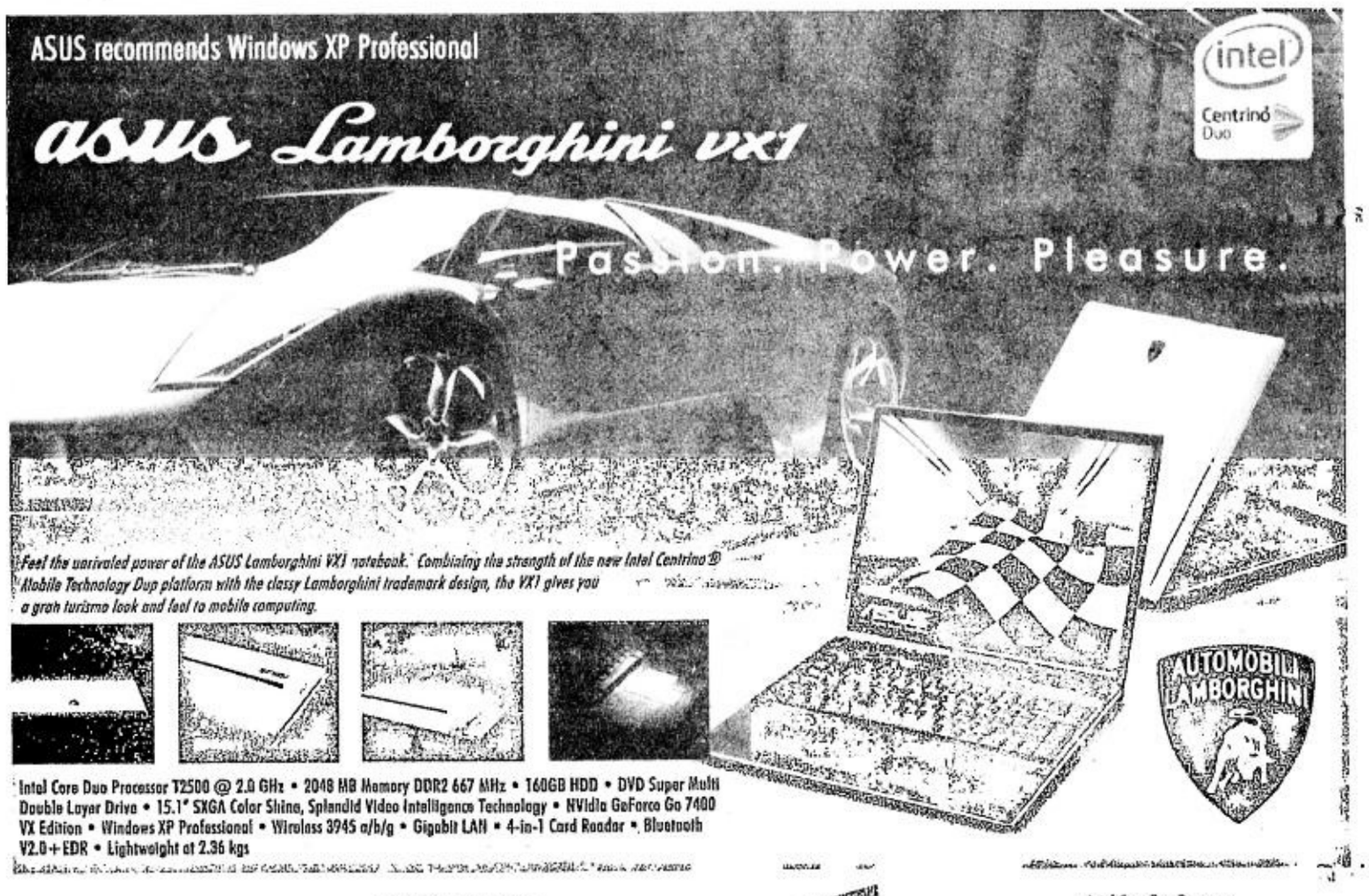
The President did not show up at the memorial park but sent a wreath of white orchids instead. She attended the wreath-laying ceremony at Aquino's monument on P. Burgos Street and Roxas Boulevard where she announced the formation of a commission to investigate the slayings of leftists and journalists. *(See front page story.)*

Aquino family members, including Rep. Agapito Aquino and former Sen. Teresita Aquino-Oreta, attended the affair on P. Burgos. Highlight of the event was the launching of a tree-planting campaign in Manila.

The President also attended Mass at the Edsa Shrine in an appearance that Malacañang earlier said was part of an effort to reconcile with her political opponents.

Aquino was asked by reporters about news reports that the 14 soldiers convicted in her husband's murder were seeking through the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption absolute pardon from Ms Arroyo without admitting guilt.

She replied: "I am asking for them to tell the truth because to this day they deny that it was they who were responsible for the assassination. The least expected from them is to tell the truth." ***With reports from Tina G. Santos, Nikko Dizon and Tarra W. Quismundo***



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ACROBATS Renier Atendido and Rowena Lopez exchange "I dos" atop a high wire in an unusual wedding ceremony held at the Quezon Memorial Circle last Saturday. EDWIN BACASMAS

Love (and marriage) in the air for this Quezon City couple

By DJ Yap

FOR SOME PEOPLE, MARRIAGE could be as difficult as walking on a high wire.

Not for Renier Atendido and Rowena Lopez who tied the knot while suspended about 10 feet above the ground.

Atendido, 33, and Lopez, 27, who were wed on Saturday at the Quezon Memorial Circle, said they wanted to be the first couple to get married while walking on a tight rope. "In the end, it was perfect. We were happy everything went smoothly," said Atendido who has been performing acrobatic stunts for 10 years.

Atendido said having a wire wedding had been his dream for the longest time. For nearly five months, he trained with Lopez, a former sales lady at a mall in Quezon City, to perfect the routine.

On their wedding day, the couple walked on a 10 meter-long high wire to get to the altar where officiating priest, Rev. Danilo Escabas, pronounced them man and wife.

"It felt good. It made such an impact on the people watching," said Atendido. The couple already have two children: A 5-year-old daughter named Rhea and a 3-year-old son named Rico.

More turnstiles planned for roads

6 major thoroughfares eyed

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IF METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando were to have his way, turnstiles would soon be as common as the pink fences along Edsa.

Fernando yesterday said the agency is planning to install more turnstiles at loading bays on six other major thoroughfares in the metropolis.

"There would be many of these, not just on Edsa. We would install them along Commonwealth, all of the seven major roads. That would be better because people would consider it the standard, what is normal. When they see the turnstiles, they would already know what they are for," he told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Apart from Edsa, the MMDA also wants to put up turnstiles on Quezon Avenue, Marcos Highway, McArthur Highway, Commonwealth Avenue, R10 Road and C5 Road.

The plan, however, would depend on the results of a study the agency is currently conducting on the effectivity of two turnstiles it had earlier installed at loading bays on Edsa's southbound lane near Ayala and Gil Puyat Avenues earlier this month.

The two intersections were chosen because these are among the busiest loading areas along the major thoroughfare.

"We are developing this area because for so long, people on the road have been disorderly. We cannot afford to just keep on having our enforcers signal to and shout at commuters to discipline them. That's why we are replacing that with physical barriers or simple technology," Fernando said.

According to the MMDA, turnstiles—which are commonly found in grocery stores and at the entrance and exits of light rail transit stations—would help instill discipline in commuters.

"This is meant to control the movement of people on loading bays. Once you get in, you can no longer go back out the same way because the turnstiles only turn forward," said Angelito Vergel de Dios, the executive director of the MMDA Traffic Engineering Center in a previous interview.

He added that the turnstiles would also discourage people from getting off at loading bays since the turnstiles would prevent them from going in.

"This would prevent people from entering and going out at the same time. It's either you jump over the turnstile or climb it just to get back to the other side," Vergel de Dios said.

Alternative education for youth

By DJ Yap

THANKS TO A NEW ALTERNATIVE LEARNING scheme, domestic workers and out-of-school youth based in Quezon City may soon be able to finish their elementary and secondary education.

Quezon City's "Alternative Learning System Accreditation and Equivalency Program" is now in the works, following the introduction of an ordinance before the city council.

Authored by Councilor Francisco Calalay, the proposed ordinance calls for the city-wide promotion of the alternative education program.

The program will benefit people aged 16 up who have dropped out of the formal school system but still wish to finish grade or high school, according to Calalay.

"Kasambahay," or domestic workers including nannies, houseboys, caregivers and the like, as well as out-of-school youths, are being tapped for the program.

In a statement, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. expressed support for the passage of the ordinance.

He said the scheme was in line with the local government's efforts to promote the welfare of women and the youth.

A pool of instruction managers from different departments at City Hall has already been tapped for the implementation of the program, according to the city's public affairs and information services office.

In particular, the city's industrial relations office shall manage social mobilization, enrollment, learning support service and reproduction of learning modules, among others.

Second look at huge billboards

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

BECAUSE OF THE GIANT BILLBOARD that fell on the southbound lane on Edsa on Sunday morning, the local government will probably need to reinspect other huge billboards in Mandaluyong City to find out if these are possible road hazards and public safety hazards.

Mayor Neptali Gonzales II told the INQUIRER that he would ask the City Engineering Office to recheck all billboards in the city before the renewal of their permits for next year.

The city government has also asked the owner of the huge billboard which fell at the corner of Boni Avenue and Edsa to explain what went wrong with the structure.

The metal posts of the billboard gave way as strong winds blew early Sunday, sending the main frame crashing onto the roof of the Metro Rail Transit-3 Boni Avenue Station at 3:30 a.m. The incident led to the cutoff of electricity for hours in the area and heavy traffic on the southbound lane of Edsa.

The clearing operations team of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority had a difficult time dismantling the dangling billboard. It took about 22 hours before they finally managed to take down the structure, Metrobase team leader Zandro Bondoc said.

The billboard had permits from the city government. But Gonzales said they would still investigate whether or not there had been defects in the construction of the billboard.

THE MANILA government wants to grow around half a million new trees in the next few years. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Spades and hoes for cops

By Margaux C. Ortiz

IN A FEW MORE MONTHS, POLICEmen in the City of Manila will be seeing green.

Yesterday, members of the Manila Police District (MPD) started planting fire and palm trees in the compound of their main headquarters on United Nations Avenue and near 11 police stations and 42 police community precincts scattered across the city.

Senior Supt. Danilo Abarzosa, Manila Police District (MPD) officer in charge, said the activity was in support of the local government's latest greening project which aims to add half a million new trees to the city's landscape.

He added that he has ordered his men to help members of the community plant their own fire trees as well.

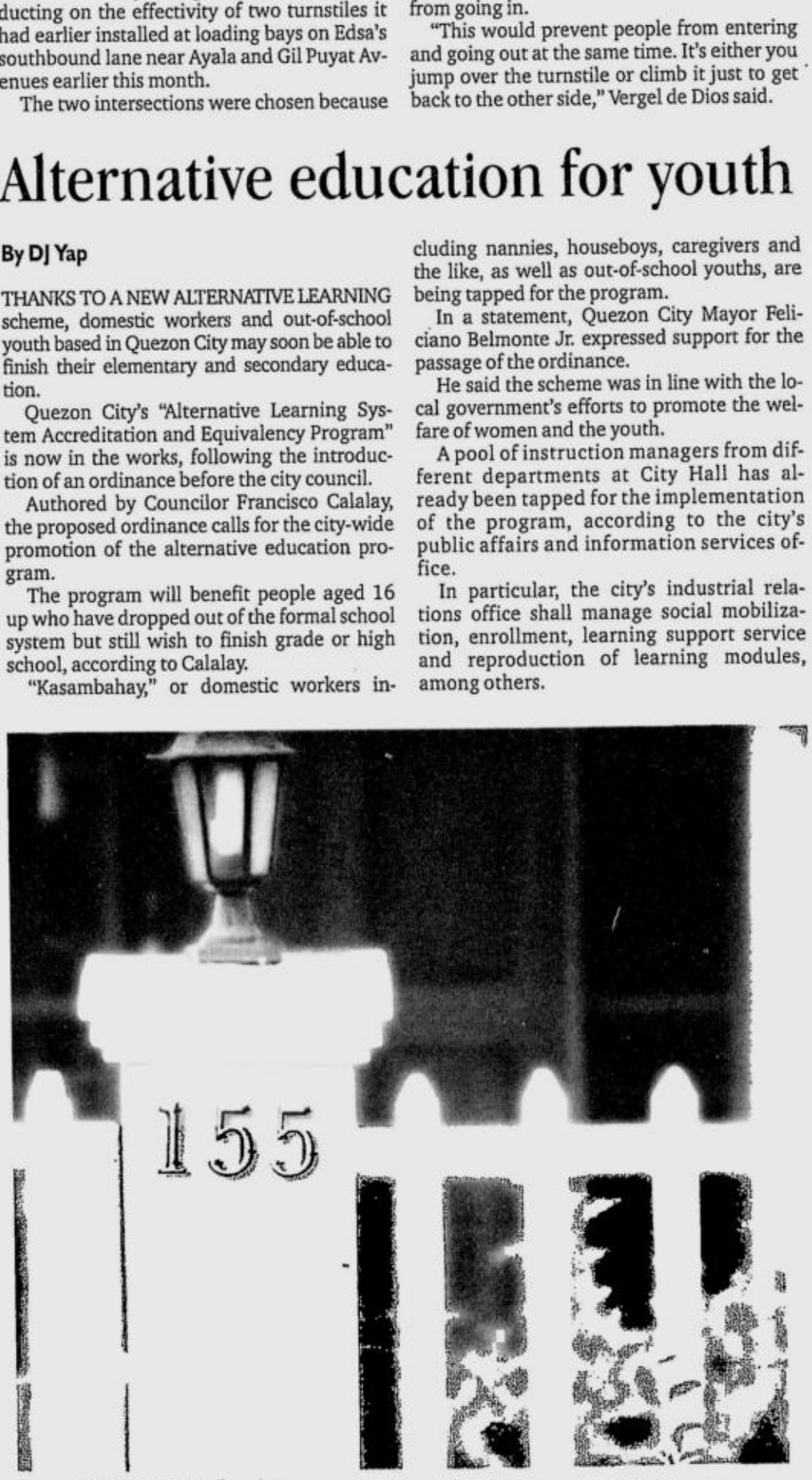
"Our policemen have the responsibility to take part in the community's projects as well as help out the city government with its endeavors," Abarzosa said.

The police chief added that MPD operatives would plant an initial 10,000 trees within the next few weeks.

Abarzosa had said in an earlier interview that apart from the tree planting activity, the police are also busy with other projects such as the "Safe Ka sa Malinis na Divisoria" program.

The program is aimed at making the shopping district one of the safest tourist and local destinations in the metropolis, he explained.

"We are continuing our clearing operations against illegal vendors and deploying additional operatives for heightened police visibility in the area," Abarzosa said.



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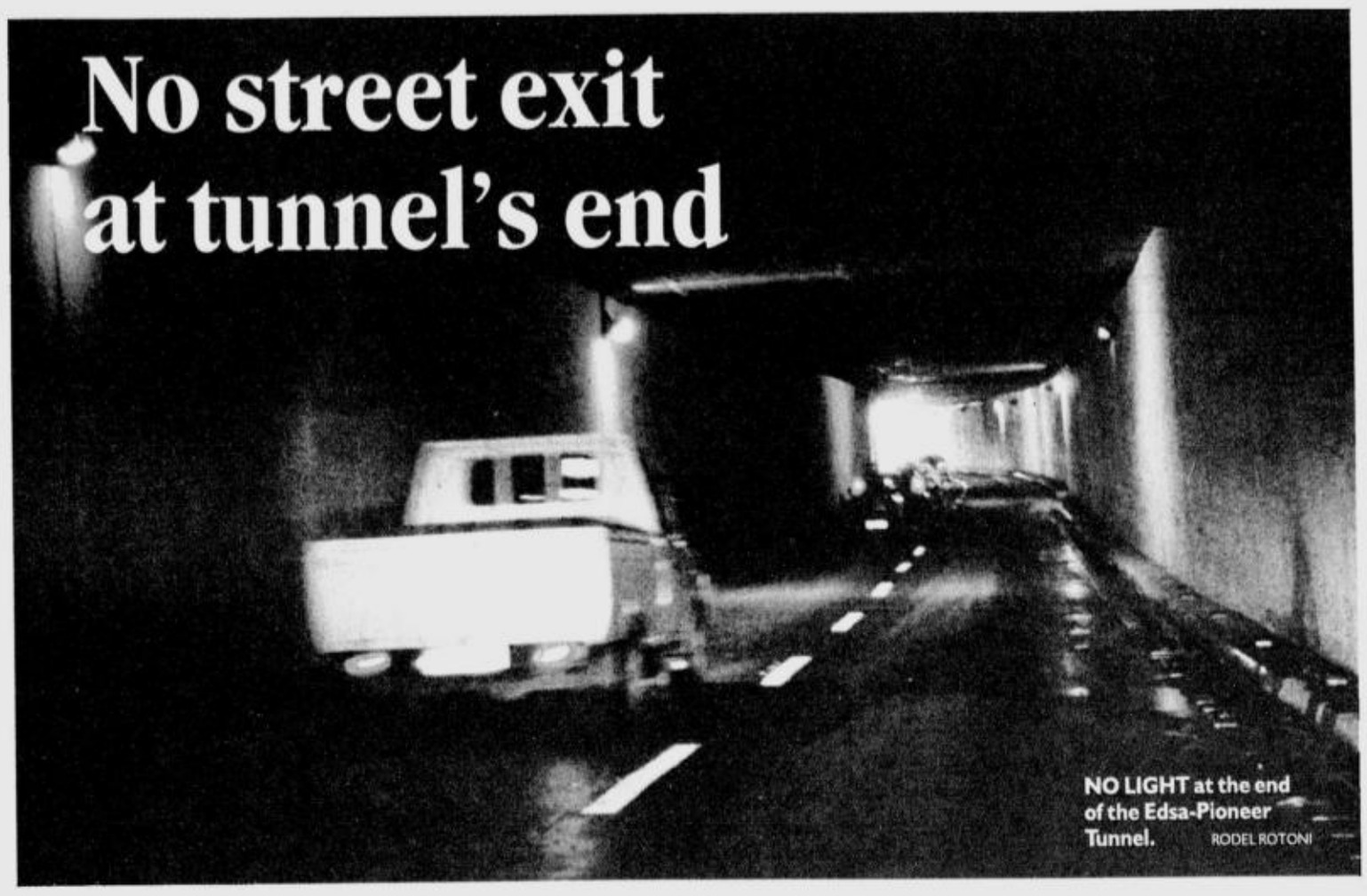


NO LIGHT at the end of the Edsa-Pioneer Tunnel. RODEL ROTONI

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

MOTORISTS WHO HAD BEEN using the tunnel connecting Boni Avenue to Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong City either as an alternate route or to avoid traffic jams on Edsa and Shaw Boulevard should drop the idea for the next few weeks.

Traffic on the westbound lane of the 100-meter Edsa-Pioneer Tunnel has been heavy for two weeks now after Pinatubo Street, the exit point at the tunnel's end leading to Edsa, was closed to traffic.

"We advise motorists to use other routes in the meantime. We have already put up traffic advisory signs to guide them," city traffic and parking management office chief Manolo Malabanan told the INQUIRER.

The Edsa-Pioneer Tunnel had served as a faster and less-clogged route for motorists coming from Pasig City on their way to the cities of Mandaluyong and Makati, instead of passing through congested Shaw Boulevard.

But after the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority started work on drainage canals on both sides of Pinatubo Street, the slope near the mouth of the tunnel on Boni Avenue going to the southbound lane on Edsa had been off limits to motorists.

Because the excavations could pose risks to motorists, Malabanan said they decided to just close Pinatubo for at least 60 days until the project is completed.

The closure was initially set for only 30 days but delays in the project caused by intermittent rains prompted the city government to extend it for another 30 days.

Those going to Edsa from the tunnel's westbound lane should turn right to Pulog Street then left to Dansalan Street before exiting on Boni Avenue.

To approach that alternate route however, motorists would first have to endure more than 15 minutes of snail-paced traffic inside the tunnel.

Passengers would also have to endure staying in the tunnel much longer than usual. Malabanan, however, said the tunnel had already been equipped with a device to pump in oxygen and suck out carbon dioxide.

METROBRIEFS

Step up anticrime drive, police chief tells men

THE MORE anticrime operations, the better. In a district command conference held over the weekend, Southern Police District chief Ricardo Padilla has ordered his men to conduct more operations, especially against drug users and car thieves. Padilla called on his men to conduct anticrime operations at least twice per week. "If they could go for three to five, that would be better," he told the INQUIRER, adding that it was one way of making southern Metro Manila a safer place to live in. The SPD has jurisdiction over the cities of Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Makati, Taguig, Pasay and the town of Pateros. Padilla added that the number of operations carried out would also be the basis for a reshuffle among the seven chiefs of police in southern Metro Manila. "If they don't do well, somebody has to take their place," he warned.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Pamantasan alumni meeting set Aug. 26

THE COLLEGE of Management and Entrepreneurship (CME) of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) is calling 2003 to 2006 graduates to attend the alumni meeting on Aug. 26. During the meeting, to be held from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Forum Hall, there will be an election of officers. Future activities such as the celebration of the CME foundation day in November will also be discussed. For inquiries, please call Baby Bonoan at 5250161 or text Professor Angie Serrano at 0920-5411032.

Navotas boosts health drive to prevent diseases

THE MUNICIPAL government of Navotas has intensified the campaign to fight the spread of influenza, the common cold and other water borne diseases during the rainy season. Mayor Toby Tiangco has instructed the Municipal Health Office, Public Information Office, Engineering Office and other municipal agencies to work together to make the rainy day health alert campaign a success. The activities include a town-wide information drive on how to fight and avoid such diseases through the declogging and clearing of *esteros*, canals and other waterways. Barangay Emergency Health Teams have also been activated to monitor the possible outbreak of diseases in the town's 14 barangays.

'Europe Ko To' art contest deadline moved to Aug. 31

THE DELEGATION of the European Commission to the Philippines is extending the deadline for high school students to submit their drawing entries until Aug. 31 to the office of the delegation at the 30th floor, RCBC Plaza, Tower II, Ayala Avenue in Makati. The drawing contest, "Europe Ko To" was launched last May in celebration of Europe Month to generate awareness about the European Union among the youth sector. The contest is open to all Filipinos enrolled in private or public schools in Metro Manila, particularly those in Grades 5 to 7 and in their 3rd to 4th year of high school. For more information, please call 8595124 or 8595125.

Tondo barangay official in hot water

By Margaux C. Ortiz

OPERATIVES OF THE MANILA POlice District (MPD) arrested a 70-year-old barangay official on Saturday night for allegedly hitting a minor on the head with a gun.

The suspect was identified as Restituto Ruiz, a barangay chair of Zone 8, District 1 in Tondo, Manila.

According to PO2 Knowme Sia of the MPD General Assignment Section (GAS), Ruiz was arrested after the 12-year-old boy and his mother told the police that the suspect hit him on the head with a gun earlier in the day.

PO3 Rodolfo Enderina and several other operatives then accompanied the complainant back to Tioco St., Tondo to talk to the barangay chair.

Upon reaching the area, the police approached Ruiz and informed him about the complaint against him.

The suspect, however, denied the boy's accusations and tried to resist arrest.

But after a brief scuffle, the police were able to take him into custody.

He was brought to the Ospital ng Maynila for for a medical examination.

Tests later revealed that the suspect was under the influence of alcohol, Sia said in his report.

Sia added that the suspect faces charges of physical injuries and maltreatment in relation to Republic Act 7610 or the Child Abuse Law, and resisting arrest.

Slay suspect gets life term

By DJ Yap

ONE OF FOUR MEN ACCUSED OF ROBBING and killing an Indian national five years ago has been sentenced to life imprisonment by a Quezon City court.

Carlos Cruz alias "Caloy" was found guilty of robbery with homicide and ordered to pay P143,000 to the family of victim Sarabjit "Sonno" Singh, as reimbursement for the stolen amount, as well as moral and actual damages.

In a 12-page decision, Judge Ma. Theresa Yadao of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 81 said she found sufficient evidence to convict Cruz of the crime that occurred on Aug. 16, 2001.

Co-accused Cesar Demafeliz was convicted of the same charges on Jan. 22, 2003 by a different court. Two other suspects, Eric Diesta and Cesar Bravo, remain at large.

Court records showed that the four conspired to rob Singh and his stepmother Lilibeth Marzan Dubb at the corner of Nelle Street and Quirino Highway in Barangay Gulod, Novaliches.

Dubb and Singh, who bought and sold appliances and jewelry, were collecting receivables on board their owner-type jeep when they were blocked by the four who declared a holdup, records showed.

The men took Dubb's bag containing P40,000 in cash and a ring worth P3,000. One of the men later shot Singh in leg and in the face, causing his death, the documents showed.

For his defense, Cruz's father testified that his son was at home at the time the crime was committed. Demafeliz, who was also presented in court, said that only he and the two other accused took part in the crime.

But Yadao said Dubb's straightforward and detailed testimony was more believable than Cruz's. She also noted inconsistencies in Cruz's statements, adding that Dubb's positive identification of him as one of the perpetrators was enough to establish his guilt.

Suspect in Malabon murder falls

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A SECOND SUSPECT IN THE KILLING of a fish trader in Malabon City on Sunday was arrested yesterday.

Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Northern Police District director, said Mercader Lara, 26, was arrested at 8:30 a.m. at his house on Ilang-Ilang Street in Tanza, Navotas.

Bataoil said Lara could also be behind several other killings in the northern part of the metropolis.

"He bore a strong resemblance to sketches of suspects provided by witnesses to other killings," Bataoil added.

The other suspect, Ronnie Sueno, 30, was killed in a shootout with a police officer who happened to be standing close to the victim, fish trader Pablito Dionisio.

Dionisio was supervising the unloading of boxes of fish at the Malabon fish port when he was shot by two men at around 3:45 p.m. Sunday.

He was hit in the chest and was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital.

A policeman who happened to be standing nearby, SPO4 Leopoldo Reyes, immediately exchanged fire with the suspects.

Reyes shot dead Sueno although he was also hit in the exchange of fire. Senior Supt. Moises Guevarra, Malabon police chief, said he would recommend a cash reward and commendation for the policeman who is now recovering at the Chinese General Hospital.

MERCADER Lara, a suspect in the killing of a fish trader in Malabon City on Sunday, cools his heels at a police station following his arrest. RAFFY LERMA

DID YOU KNOW

TO COMMEMORATE the heroism of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., former Ayala Corp. chair Jaime Zobel de Ayala commissioned a sculpture of the former senator standing proud moments before he was slain on Aug. 21, 1983. "Ninoy's Choice," the 12-foot bronze monument on a 10-foot pedestal by Peter de Guzman, was unveiled in 1998 at the corner of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas , Makati City. It replaced the bronze monument by Anastacio Caedo that showed Aquino descending the steps of an airplane. The monument is now in Tarlac. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

No hurry in looking for MPD chief

By Tina G. Santos

IT HAS BEEN WEEKS SINCE MANILA Police District chief Pedro Bulaong retired, but Mayor Lito Atienza sees no reason why he should be rushed into picking a replacement.

"There's no rush in making a decision. For now, we have Senior Supt. (Danilo) Abarzosa as officer in charge. So far, he's doing a good job and I'm happy with it," the mayor said.

"I told Col. Abarzosa to just continue doing his work," Atienza added.

He stressed that the next chief of the MPD should have the capacity to clean up the ranks of the city's policemen, particularly those involved in illegal collections, which, Atienza admitted, was prevalent in the city.

He disclosed that candidates for the post are being endorsed by various sectors of society.

Last week, at least 20 city councilors endorsed Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales as the new director of the MPD.

They said Rosalies has the competence and capability to lead the police district.

But Atienza said he has yet to make up his mind.

"Now that there is an opportunity to choose correctly the MPD chief, I am making my decision based on who could deliver my expectations.

"I want to change history. I want to break the record of corruption and prove that we can do it," the mayor added.

GMA should allow opening of the boxes

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

PATHETIC.

That, in one word, should describe the sight of fishermen scooping up dirty bunker oil washed on the shores of Guimaras from a sunken oil tanker.

It was like scooping water with a teaspoon from a big pond and transferring the water into a small container.

The need of the hour is advanced technology in sucking out the spilled oil from the sunken ship. The ship, which has spewed out some 200,000 liters of bunker fuel, still holds 1.5 million liters.

If international help is not forthcoming soon, the marine life in nearby island provinces will be affected. Fish and seafood will not be edible in those places for a long time.

***

Why was Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., owner of the sunken tanker MT Solar I, hired by Petron to carry fuel cargo when the firm's tankers are not double-hulled vessels?

An international maritime convention provides that tankers must be double-hulled so its liquid cargo would not leak into the sea. The convention , to which our country is one of the signatories, bans single-hulled tankers.

Why did the government-owned Petron allow its oil cargo to be carried by a single-hulled vessel?

It would be interesting to know who owns Sunshine Maritime Development Corp. or who are its majority stockholders.

Reporters should check the names of the stockholders with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

If the names of the stockholders are not well-known, then reporters could check the office addresses of the stockholders. They might find that the stockholders are either dummies or their names are fictitious.

***

The seven *balikbayan* boxes that reportedly contain the evidence of the opposition in the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo are now the subject of coffee shop and office talks.

The opposition was prevented from presenting the contents of the boxes before the House committee on justice.

If the boxes are not opened, they might go the way of the envelopes in the impeachment trial of former President Estrada.

Erap's allies in the Senate prevented the opening of some envelopes supposedly containing damning evidence.

The rest is history.

***

If the President is not hiding anything, why doesn't she allow the opening of the boxes even if the majority in the House justice committee had voted against it?

The people's trust in her would be restored if those boxes don't contain damning evidence.

House Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano would come out a big liar if it would be proven there was nothing in those boxes that pointed to the First Family as owning millions of dollars deposited in a German bank.

Most readers now memorize the bank account number: 87-570-23030-32100-62771571 supposedly at the Hypovereins Bank.

If those boxes are not opened, Congressman Cayetano's accusation will continue to be taken as gospel truth.

Will the President, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and other members of the First Family allow their names to be tarnished?

***

The Poro Point controversy boils down to the question: Why does the Macapagal-Arroyo administration continue to give Manny Tan, owner of Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC), the privilege of running the free port?

Tan, who was given the privilege by President Erap in 1999, is a well-known importer of rice and fertilizer.

People in the know say Tan was Erap's crony. It's strange why GMA retained him to run the free port.

Saddam faces new trial on genocide charges

BAGHDAD—SADDAM HUSSEIN ruled Iraq with an iron fist for three decades, a man whose word was law and who dreamt of a united Arab world led from Baghdad. Now, he sits in a cell facing a new trial for genocide and execution by hanging.

"Don't be attracted to easy paths, because the paths that make your feet bleed are the only way to get ahead in life," Saddam once said, a dictum that led him into ruinous wars with neighbors and finally to his overthrow by US forces in 2003.

Saddam, meaning "one who confronts" in Arabic, returns to court on Monday to face charges of genocide for a military campaign against ethnic Kurds in 1988. He is still awaiting the verdict in a separate trial for the killing of 148 Shiites.

He faces the death penalty in both cases. Other accusations against the former president could take years to come to trial, all but guaranteeing he will never leave prison alive.

Playing to a televised gallery and for his place in history, he told the court last month in a typically bravura performance that he would rather be shot than hanged.

But though US officials presented his prosecution as a catharsis for Iraqis, who spent years under the gaze of Saddam statues and posters, many now pay scant attention amid sectarian and ethnic bloodshed that is pushing Iraq into civil war.

Saddam's ruthless rule largely kept the lid on simmering tensions between Arabs and Kurds and between majority Shiite Muslims and the dictator's dominant fellow Sunnis, but in the security vacuum that followed the US invasion in 2003, Sunni insurgents and sectarian militants have killed thousands.

TWO KURDISH survivors from the Anfal campaign of the late 1980s, for which Saddam Hussein and six codefendants will go on trial on Aug. 21. AFP

Saddam, 69, who has called on Iraqis to stop fighting each other and concentrate on killing Americans, always understood the importance of projecting the right image to cement his leadership of a country formed by colonial rulers from a patchwork of ethnic and religious communities.

He appealed variously to Arab nationalism, Islam and Iraqi patriotism and would appear in public in the traditional clothes of an Iraqi peasant, military uniform or Western suits.

In court appearances he projects the image of a pious Muslim, tieless in a sober black suit and clutching a Koran. He still refers to himself as president of Iraq.

He took that formal post in 1979 after using his skills as a street fighter and conspirator to get his Baath party into power in a 1968 coup. Surrounding himself with relatives from his hometown of Tikrit, he maintained an iron grip on Iraq despite bloody wars, uprisings, coup plots and assassination attempts.

Once an ally of the United States, which quietly aided him in his eight-year war against Iran's Shiite Islamist rulers, he was demonized by Western governments after his Army invaded Washington's oil-rich Arab ally Kuwait in 1990.

Having fled when his forces melted in the face of the US invasion of March 2003, he was captured in December of that year by American soldiers who found him hiding in a hole near Tikrit.

His sons Uday and Qusay, senior aides to their father, had been killed by US forces in July 2003.

US troops found nothing to substantiate Washington's assertions that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction or had links to al-Qaida, key justifications for the war.

Three years on, Saddam is an increasingly irrelevant figure for many Iraqis preoccupied by chronic fuel shortages and power cuts in searing summer heat—and simply trying to stay alive. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Egypt train crash kills 51

QALYOUB, Egypt—A passenger train barreled into a northern Egypt railway station Monday and collided with a second train, killing 51 people and injuring 138. Footage broadcast by state television showed the front part of one train crumpled in, while other train cars lay on their sides, or on the grass next to the train tracks, at the rail station in the town of Qalyoub, 20 km north of the capital Cairo. The trains, both southbound and carrying commuters to the Egyptian capital, Cairo, originated in the Nile Delta towns of Mansoura and Benha. The train from Mansoura was going at least 80 km per hour when the collision occurred after it failed to abide by a stop signal outside Qalyoub train station, police sources said. *AP*

US, S. Korea start military drills

SEOUL—South Korea and the United States on Monday launched joint military exercises amid tensions over North Korea's missile tests and reports Pyongyang is preparing for a nuclear test, officials said. Some 8,000 US troops and an undisclosed number of South Korean military soldiers were taking part in the annual military drills, according to military officials from both sides. The drills, which involves a massive computer-simulated war game, have been denounced by North Korea as a prelude to war against the communist country. But Seoul and Washington deny the North Korean claims, insisting the "defense-oriented" joint military exercises have been held annually since 1975. *AFP*

Thaksin sues critic for black magic remarks

BANGKOK, Thailand—Thailand's criminal court Monday agreed to hear a suit by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra against a staunch critic who accused him of using black magic to maintain his political fortunes. Thaksin filed the defamation suit against Sondhi Limthongkul, a media tycoon who led months of street protests in an effort to oust the prime minister. Confrontations between Thaksin and groups accusing him of corruption and abuse of power have precipitated a political crisis which might not be resolved until general elections scheduled for October. Sondhi has publicly charged that Thaksin was deeply superstitious, believed in black magic and had resorted to the black arts in his political battles. *AP*

Gunfights as Congo heads for poll runoff

KINSHASA—Congolese President Joseph Kabila's guards fought gun battles with forces loyal to election challenger Jean-Pierre Bemba in the capital Kinshasa on Sunday, as poll results showed the two would have to enter a runoff. Kabila, with 44.81 percent, and Bemba with 20.03 percent of votes from the historic July 30 election, will face each other in a second round, elections chief Apollinaire Malu Malu said on state television. The vote has highlighted a split between Kabila's native Swahili-speaking east, which voted heavily for the 35-year-old president, and the Lingala-speaking west which rejected him, including the teeming city of Kinshasa where Kabila is disliked and seen by many as a foreign-backed stooge. *Reuters*

Iran says it won't halt atomic work

TEHRAN—Iran said on Sunday it would not suspend uranium enrichment, ruling out the main demand in a nuclear package backed by six world powers that aims to allay Western fears Tehran is seeking to build atomic bombs. Iran says it will formally respond by Tuesday to proposals made by the United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany. The six have offered incentives for Iran to suspend enrichment, a process that has both military and civilian uses. Tehran, which insists its nuclear aims are purely civilian, shows no sign of accepting the package. *Reuters*

No probe of Madonna mock crucifixion act

DUESSELDORF, Germany—German prosecutors said Monday they have decided against opening an investigation into Madonna after the pop diva performed a controversial mock crucifixion scene at a weekend concert. A crowd of about 45,000 packed Duesseldorf's LTU Arena Sunday night to watch the first of two German concerts on the worldwide "Confessions" tour. The crucifixion scene recently drew criticism in Italy. On Monday, spokesperson Johannes Mocken said they would not open an investigation for possible charges of insulting religious beliefs. While the scene might be "hurtful to religious people," there was no indication of a criminal offense, he said.

PHOTOGRAPHER'S GONE, BUT IMAGE REMAINS
US Marines raise the American flag atop Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, on Feb. 23, 1945. Joe Rosenthal, who won a Pulitzer Prize for this immortal image died Aug. 20. He was 94. AP

'British' night vision goggles discovered in Hezbollah HQ

LONDON—NIGHT VISION GOGgles that were apparently made in Britain were found in the Shiite militia Hezbollah's command bunkers in southern Lebanon by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), a spokesperson for the Foreign Office told AFP on Sunday.

"The Israeli Defense Forces, we understand, have found some equipment in southen Lebanon that they think is British-made," the spokesperson said.

"We are, obviously, working with them to ascertain whether it was British-made and if so, who it was manufactured by, and who it was sold to."

He said that only night-vision goggles had been found, and that the IDF had a discussion about the issue with the Foreign Office on Friday.

According to The Times on Monday, the Israeli government filed a formal protest to Britain after it was revealed Britain had sold 250 night-vision systems to Iran in 2003 to battle drug smuggling.

The newspaper also said the equipment bore the stamp: "Made in Britain."

The Foreign Office spokesperson said he was not aware of any formal protest, and added that there was no evidence yet to suggest that the night-vision kits were passed on to Hezbollah. *AFP*

FROM BUSINESS CLASS TO JAIL

JonBenet murder suspect lands in US

LOS ANGELES—A US TEACHER arrested in connection with the decade-old killing of child beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey arrived here from Thailand late Sunday to undergo more questioning about his possible role in the 1996 murder.

John Mark Karr, 41, flew in business class on a Thai Airways flight that landed at Los Angeles International Airport at about 9:27 p.m.

Witnesses said the suspect made the trip in style, drinking champagne and enjoying business class service in the company of three security escorts.

"It was a little weird to travel with someone like Mr. Karr," Dan Shieff, a banker who happened to be on the same flight, told reporters. "He was smiling, relaxed and very, very chilled out."

After landing, Karr was whisked out of the plane by US Customs officials to avoid throngs of waiting photographers.

He was expected to spend the night at a local jail as issues related to his extradition to Colorado are being resolved.

The suspect will face US investigators trying to solve the murder of 6-year-old Ramsey, in a lurid case that captured the nation's attention for years.

Thai police have said he had confessed to killing Ramsey unintentionally. They said Karr told them that he was "in love" with the little blonde girl, who wore makeup, glamorous outfits and struck adult poses in her appearances at child beauty pageants.

However, Karr told reporters in Bangkok Thursday, a day after his arrest, that he did not kill her and that her death "was an accident."

Karr was tracked down in Bangkok after authorities studied four years of e-mails between him and University of Colorado journalism professor Michael Tracey, who has closely followed the Ramsey case.

According to excerpts of some of the e-mails published in the Rocky Mountain News, the two discussed Karr's sexuality conflicts.

"I am trapped in a world that does not understand," Karr said in one exchange. "I can understand people like Michael Jackson and feel sympathy when he suffers as he has."

While his arrest has revived huge interest in the murder—in which, at one point, JonBenet Ramsey's parents were investigated as possible suspects—suspicions arose that Karr might not be the girl's killer.

Earlier this week, Karr's former wife, Lara Marie Knutson, told a San Francisco television station off-camera that on the day Ramsey's strangled body was found, she was with her then-husband and their three sons in the southeastern state of Alabama.

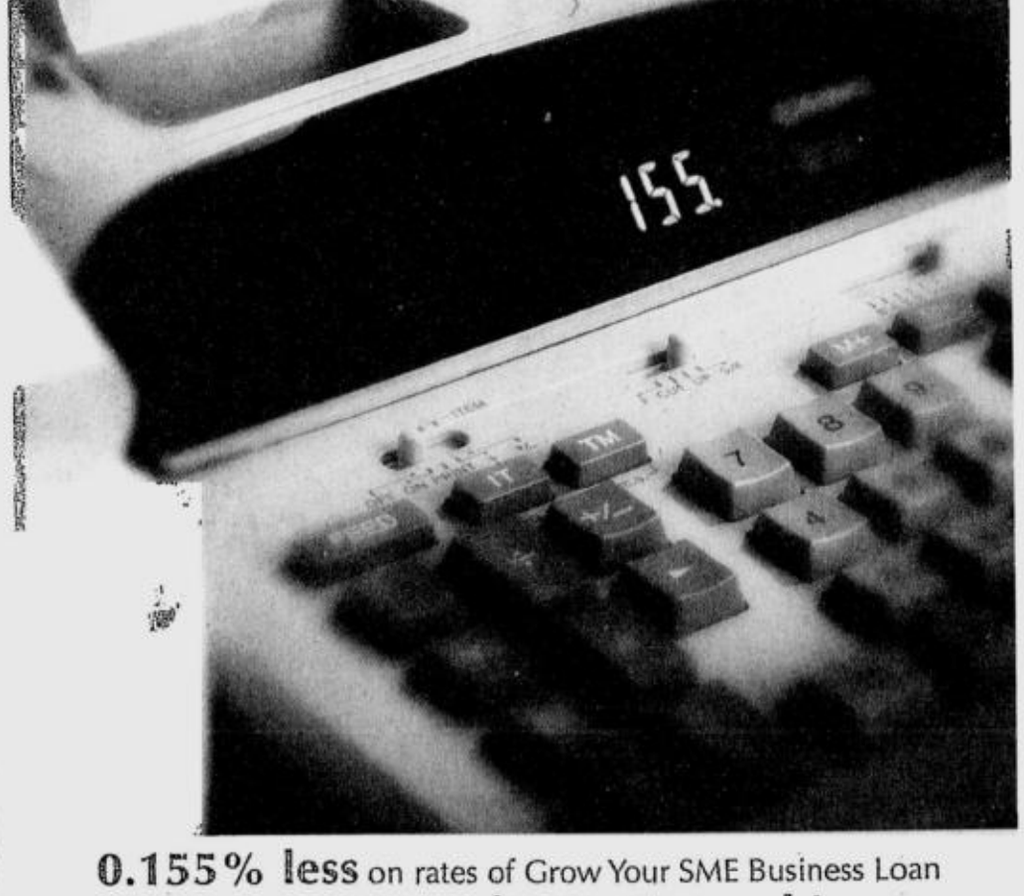
Her lawyer also said that she recalls that they were spending the Christmas holiday together when the murder took place on Dec. 26—the day after Christmas—in the western state of Colorado.

Knutson's 11-year marriage to Karr ended in 2001, the year Karr was charged with possession of child pornography in Sonoma County, California, north of San Francisco.

A report in The Denver Post newspaper Sunday suggested Boulder District Attorney Mary Lacy left large gaps in her investigative work as she tried to build a case against Karr before his arrest.

It was only Wednesday, when Karr was already in Thai custody, that the prosecutor's office called the Marion County School District in Alabama to seek a sample of Karr's handwriting to compare it with the ransom note allegedly left by Ramsey's killer, the paper said.

Experts believe the handwritings don't match. *AFP*



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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Israeli anger grows over war's conduct

JERUSALEM—ISRAELI PUBLIC ANGER AT the way the nation's leaders conducted the war in Lebanon grew Monday, with a group of reservists publishing a public letter of protest and a top general saying the military was guilty of arrogance.

The reservists' letter, blasting the "indecisiveness" of top brass during the month-long war, topped the news broadcasts of Israeli radio and was on the front page of the nation's top three newspapers.

Pressure has steadily increased on Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to open a state inquiry into how the 34-day war against Hezbollah was handled at the political and military level.

"The war's aim, which was not defined clearly, was even changed in the course of the fighting," said the letter signed by the Spearhead Brigade.

"The indecisiveness manifested itself in inaction, in not carrying out operational plans, and in canceling all the missions we were given during the fighting," it said.

"This led to prolonged stays in hostile territory, without an operational purpose and out of unprofessional considerations, without seeking to engage in combat with the enemy."

Israel's outgoing infantry chief conceded that the military leadership was guilty of arrogance.

"At times, we were guilty of the sin of arrogance... including me," Brig. Gen. Yossi Hyman said at a ceremony at a military base late Sunday.

"Despite heroic fighting by the soldiers and commanders, especially at the company and battalion level, we all feel a certain sense of failure and missed opportunity," he said.

"I feel the weighty responsibility on my shoulders. I failed to prepare the infantry better for war. I did not manage to prevent burnout among professional companies and platoons," he said.

"I feel no relief whatsoever in the face of the array of excuses ... At this time, it is not easy being part of the system. Part of the public, and perhaps also parts of the leadership, is expressing lack of faith in us." *AFP*

LEBANESE soldiers sit on their tanks in Tyre, Aug. 21 awaiting deployment to the border following last week's ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel. AFP

UN: Week-old Lebanon truce may yet unravel

BEIRUT—THE UNITED NATIONS SAID ON Sunday the week-old truce between Israel and Hezbollah could easily collapse again into "an abyss of violence and bloodshed" if the UN resolution which engendered it was violated further.

Senior UN envoy Terje Roed-Larsen said the truce provided the Lebanese government with a good chance to extend its authority over the entire country but warned: "We are at the tilting edge still."

"This can easily start sliding again and lead us quickly into the abyss of violence and bloodshed," he told a news conference in Beirut before heading to Israel.

The Norwegian was speaking a day after the UN condemned an Israeli raid on Hezbollah guerrillas in eastern Lebanon as a breach of Security Council Resolution No. 1701, which brought the 34-day war between the two sides to an end.

Roed-Larsen said any further, similar raids by the Israelis would only discourage countries from committing troops to a planned UN peacekeeping force in south Lebanon.

"What we have to do now is for all parties concerned to show utmost restraint to produce a situation that is so stable that troop contributors will come forward to hopefully reach the goal of 15,000...," he said.

A 30,000-strong force is envisaged for south Lebanon, made up of Lebanese and UN troops in equal number.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has called for Italy to lead the UN peacekeeping force, his office said in a statement.

The call was made in a telephone conversation between Olmert and Prime Minister Romano Prodi and indicated Italy's chances of leading the force had increased following France's apparent reluctance to commit more than 200 additional troops to Lebanon.

"It is important that Italy should lead the international force and send troops to also oversee the Lebanon-Syria border crossings," the statement said.

Israel has said its raid in the eastern Bekaa Valley was designed to disrupt weapons supplies to Hezbollah from Syria and Iran. It denied it had violated the UN truce resolution, which allows it to act in self-defense.

Israeli reconnaissance planes flew over Lebanon on Sunday.

Witnesses and Lebanese security sources said high-altitude flights covered virtually the whole country, from its battered south to close to the border with Syria in the north and east.

In Jerusalem, Israel's top general conceded his army had failed to destroy Hezbollah during the war, which claimed 1,183 lives in Lebanon and 157 in Israel.

"The feeling of the public is that it was not a knockout blow," Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz told the Israeli Cabinet, according to a government source.

France said it had asked European Union president Finland to call a meeting of the EU member-states to discuss Lebanon. A Finnish official said the EU's political and security committee would meet on Wednesday.

France has pledged to send only 200 extra troops to Lebanon, disappointing Washington and the United Nations, which had hoped the French contingent would form the backbone of an expanded UN force.

The Italian government has not specified how many troops it is prepared to contribute, but officials in Rome say the figure could be up to 3,000, making it one of the biggest contributors.

None of the Arab League member governments has offered to send troops to south Lebanon, for fear of being dragged into conflict with either the Israelis or Hezbollah. *Reuters*

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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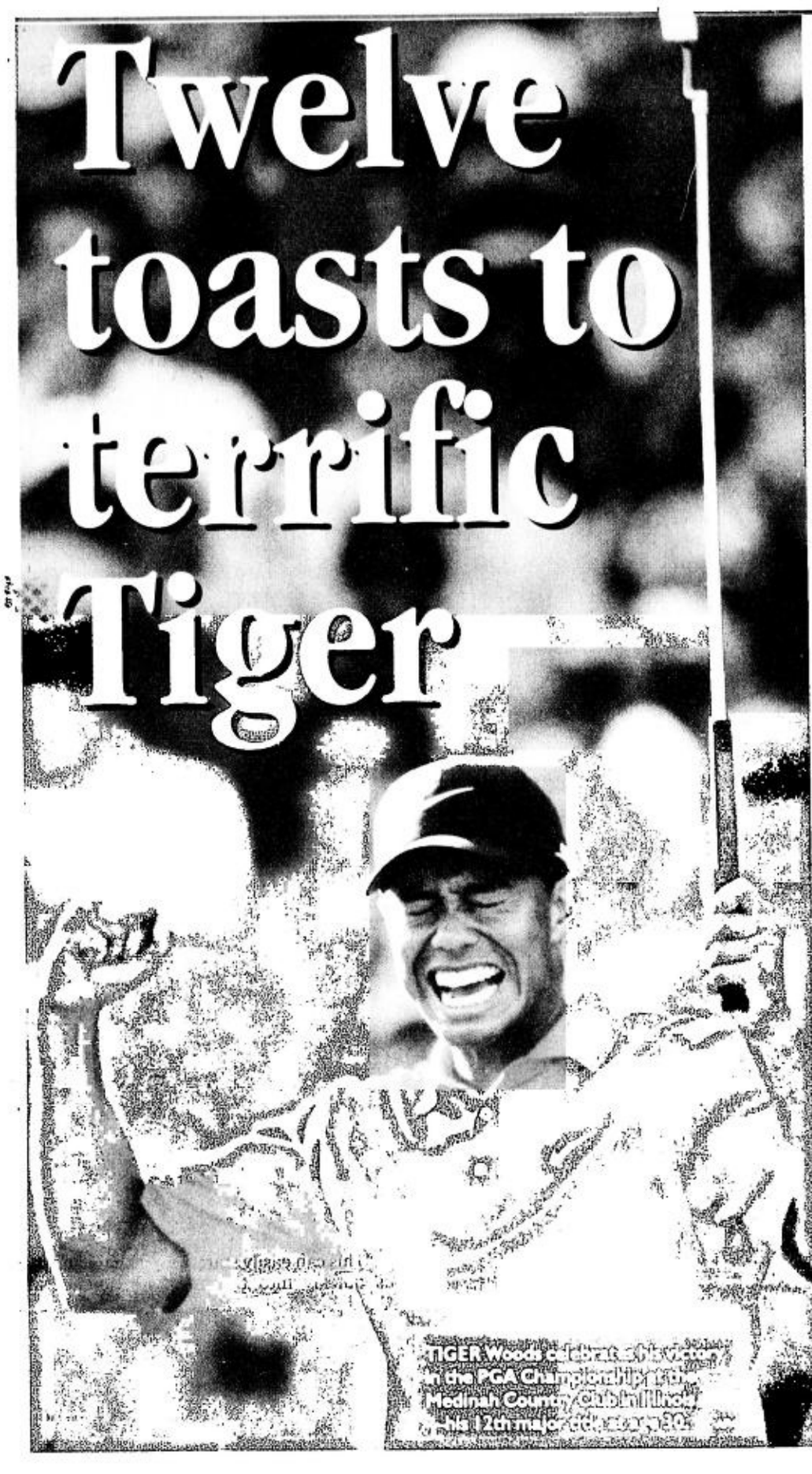
SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

■ **Vengeful** Phelps, Hansen smash world records at Pan Pac meet /A23



Woods nails No. 12 with PGA victory

MEDINAH, ILLINOIS—An emotional wreck at Hoylake, a machine at Medinah.

Tiger Woods went from brown fairways to lush greens, from pure irons to perfect putting, from silver claret jug to shiny Wanamaker Trophy.

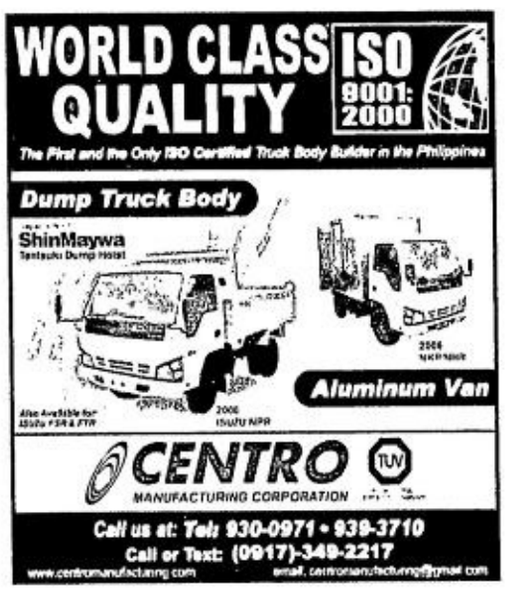
For all those changes, from one major to the next, this much stayed very much the same:

Woods overwhelmed his competition again Sunday, closing with a 4-under 68 for a five-shot victory in the PGA Championship, giving him 12 career majors and leaving only Jack Nicklaus and his 18 titles in his way.

It started with a 10-foot birdie on the first hole to take the lead. It ended with a tap-in for par, and a celebration so routine that Woods merely plucked the ball from the cup, stuck it in his pocket, raised both fists and walked off the green with a smile that never left his face.

No tears.

DOZEN/ A24



Wakee ignores Pacquiao tie-up talk

A POSSIBLE TIEUP between Manny Pacquiao and Bob Arum of Top Rank are "premature" and should not be taken seriously.

"It is very premature to even talk about that (contract)," promoter Rex "Wakee" Salud, who is a close friend of Pacquiao, said yesterday. "It is best that we just allow Manny to focus on the task at hand, which is to beat Erik Morales on Nov. 18."

Salud, also a noted boxing manager, was reacting to an article written by respected boxing writer Dan Rafael of ESPN.com, where his name had been mentioned as Pacquiao's next possible handler after the fighter's contract with his current managers expires in January 2007.

"Pacquiao plans to instead work with Rex 'Wakee' Salud, a Filipino who is close to Pacquiao," Rafael reported.

Salud said he is not trying to get in the way of the managerial relationship between Pacquiao and his management team made up of Shelly Finkel, Nick Khan and Keith Davidson. ***Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor***

Crucial Japan Fiba congress to tackle RP status

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TEN MINUTES EACH.

Philippine basketball's warring factions were given just that time to wrap up their respective positions and convince the international basketball federation (Fiba) which of them should be given official sanction.

A high-ranking Philippine Olympic Committee official yesterday told the INQUIRER the Fiba had invited officials of the expelled Basketball Association of the Philippines and the POC-backed Pilipinas Basketball to attend the Fiba congress this week in Japan.

Both camps, according to the official, will be allowed two speakers each and only 10 minutes to wrap up their respective arguments during the crucial Fiba congress that coincides with the ongoing world basketball championship in Saitama.

"We are preparing for that make-or-break meeting," said the official of the local Olympic body, which has decided to assist Pilipinas Basketball obtain official Fiba recognition.

Despite the limited time, the POC official said they are not complaining, as long as they are given a chance to present their side.

The BAP, headed by former senator Joey Lina, is optimistic that his group will regain the Fiba nod, a year after the POC booted it out.

Fiba reacted to the expulsion by suspending the country's participation in all tournaments of the world cage body.

Pilipinas Basketball is set to hold its elections today in keeping with the Fiba recommendation to strengthen its structure as the true representative of the major basketball stakeholders in the country.

Nationals rip Koreans for 2nd win in Brunei

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—REN-REN RITUALO AND DONDON HONTIVEROS came up big when it mattered, leading the San Miguel-RP Team to a 101-93 victory over the SK Knights of Korea in the 6th Shell Rimula Brunei Cup.

It was the second straight win for the defending champions and it was fashioned out with a lot more conviction compared to a 79-72 win over the Saudi Arabian All Stars in the opener.

San Miguel next clashes with the Darwin All Stars, who conquered the Saudi Arabian All Stars with ease, 81-65, for the solo lead.

Ritualo scored 14 of his total in the second period and Hontiveros had nine in the fourth to lead the Filipinos past the scrappy Koreans in the very physical contest at the National Indoor Stadium here.

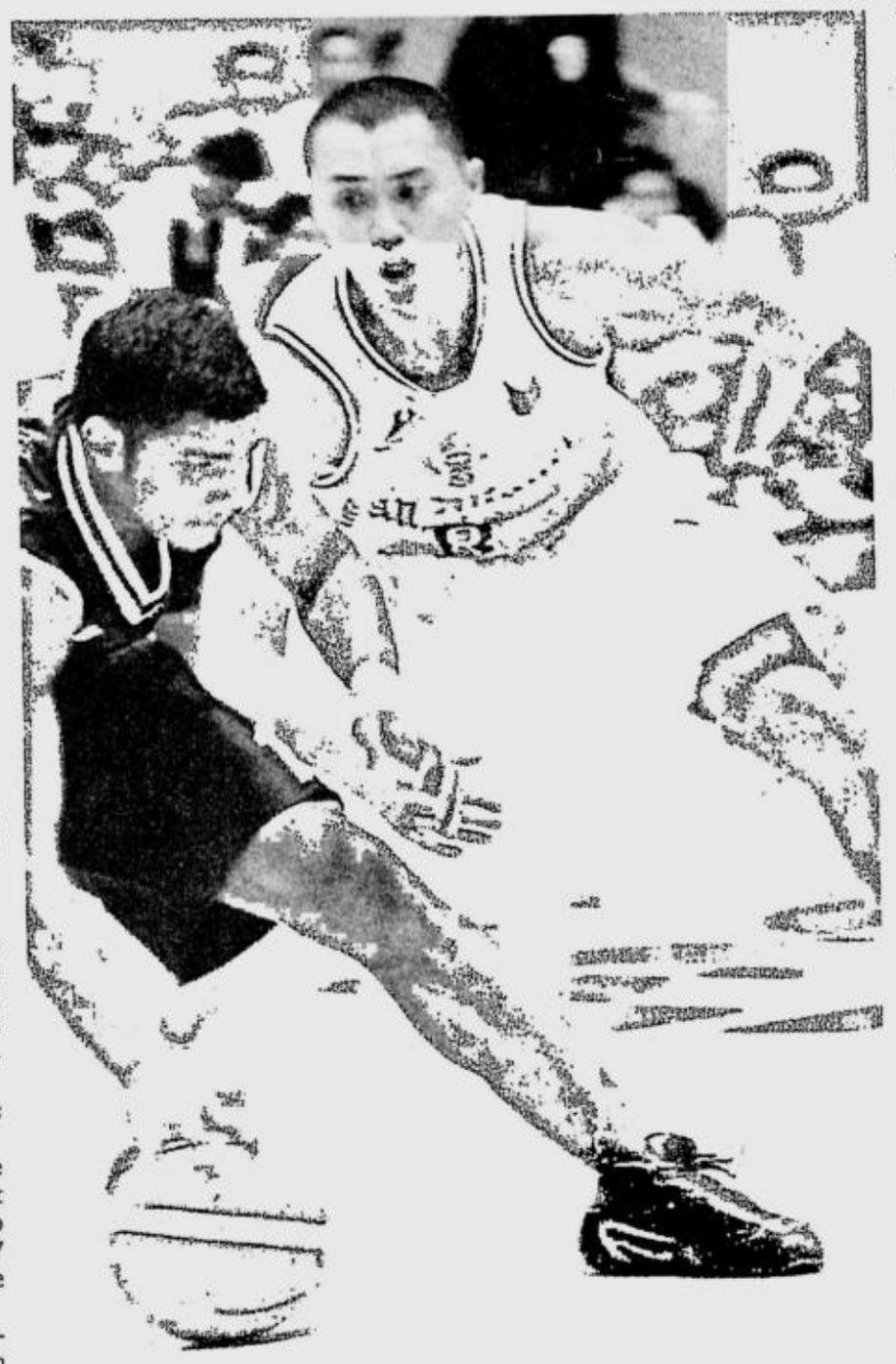
The Knights were overly aggressive in the onset, with Jung Rak Young, Kebu Omar Stewart and Lim Jae Hyun shooting all but two of SK's 25 first quarter points.

Ranidel de Ocampo and Don Carlos Allado were the reasons why the Koreans didn't pull away in that torrid stretch after they combined for 15 points to keep the Filipinos within striking distance.

Ritualo hit his mark and the Filipinos closed out the half with a 52-45 lead.

The Koreans tied the game for the last time at 64 before Hontiveros went on a scoring rampage in the final two minutes of the period to restore a 74-67 lead for the Philippines entering the fourth quarter.

The loss put a huge dent in the Koreans' title aspirations. They next clash with another RP squad, the Barangay Ginebra Kings, Tuesday night.



REN-REN Ritualo (seen in file photo) provides the biggest hits in San Miguel-RP's win over the tough Korean five. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Red Bull's Guiao taps yet another ex-Atenean

By June Navarro

MEMBRERE

RED BULL HAS A keen eye for talent.

When all the teams ignored the ailing Larry Fonacier last year, the Bulls wasted no time grabbing the former Ateneo standout with little expectation.

Fonacier, picked 14th overall after recuperating from a career-threatening knee injury in the amateur ranks, became the steal of the draft and eventually the 2006 PBA rookie of the year.

This season, the Bulls again gambled on Magnum Membrere, Fonacier's college teammate, as the 19th pick overall in the second round of the PBA rookie draft last Sunday.

His knee injury now fully healed, the 6-foot Membrere reunites with former Blue Eagles Enrico Villanueva, Rich Alvarez, Paolo Bugia and Fonacier at Red Bull.

They formed the nucleus of Ateneo's 2002 UAAP basketball champion team together with San Miguel's Wesley Gonzales and Lewis Alfred Tenorio.

Aside from Fonacier, the Bulls also drafted San Sebastian's Leo Najorda and Bugia, who both landed in the top 3 for the rookie of the year award last season.

Getting to play with his college teammates is a different matter, however.

Membrere plays the wing spot which the Bulls have already filled up by keeping an intact offguard rotation composed of Junthy Valenzuela, Lordy Tugade, Cyrus Baguio and Fonacier.

Philracom summons ace jockey Zarate

By Musong R. Castillo

JOCKEY JEFFRYL ZARATE HAS BEEN summoned to appear before officials of the Philippine Racing Commission today after stewards reportedly caught him not carrying the required handicap weight aboard Slatkis in the fifth leg of the Imported Stakes Series Sunday.

Zarate stands to be meted a stiff penalty —if not a lifetime ban—if found guilty of the infraction after the P600,000 race at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite. He was said to have been aided by his mount's groom.

Sources at the Manila Jockey Club said that Zarate dropped several plates from his weight belt that would have brought him to 58 kg aboard Slatkis, the top favorite who finished second behind upset winner Luxardo in the premier event.

Racing stewards reportedly saw the groom handing Zarate back the plates when the jockey was about to be weighed again after the big race.

Zarate later did not ride Expiditer in Race 8 and event 9 winner Native Land after complaining of dizziness, according to racing manager Rodolfo Prado.

The same source, who requested anonymity, said that rumors of this form of "cheating" involving other top jockeys has been going on for quite sometime now.

Zarate was dropped to a Class B rank after serving six months of a one-year suspension for deliberately losing atop Noor in a regular race last year.

Each rider is required to weigh in before each race to assure that he is carrying the right weight before boarding his mount.

According to the source, some jockeys operate in cahoots with grooms, who take some of the plates away when the horses are led to a long walk to the starting gate.

Realtors want lifetime ban on Cabagnot

ALEX CABAGNOT WILL NOW JUST BE AN unpleasant memory that Sta. Lucia Realty will try to forget.

"Let's forget about him—he doesn't deserve to be in the PBA," said Sta. Lucia Realty governor Buddy Encarnado of the sophomore point guard, who continued to defy management's demand to explain his disappearing act.

Encarnado has vowed to seek a lifetime ban on the 5-foot-11 Cabagnot, who breached league rules by seeing action in the Las Vegas Summer League last month.

"We sent him a letter suspending him but he has not responded," Encarnado said.

Sources said Barangay Ginebra had shown interest on the University of Hawaii alum and asked the Realtors for a trade. Encarnado turned down the offer.

"Some quarters are asking for a trade," said Encarnado. "I told them no." *June Navarro*

PAGULAYAN

Pagulayan routs Valle, bags nat'l title

By Musong R. Castillo

"I TOLD ALL OF YOU BEFORE THE EVENT, you're all playing for second place."

It was said in jest but Alex Pagulayan really proved peerless as he routed Gandy Valle, 13-6, in the finals Sunday night to cap a brilliant show in the 2006 BSCP National Pool Championship.

The 27-year-old Fil-Canadian made the remark with the trophy in his right hand and the P1 million champion's check in his left while posing with the next three placers for the traditional victory photo.

"This is one of the goals I set in my life," Pagulayan later told the INQUIRER. "Winning my country's national championship is a big thing. Believe me, it ranks up there."

Pagulayan, the 2004 world pool champion, broke the racks soft, potted with incredible efficiency and played defense like a wizard against a rival expected to give him a hard time in the final match.

The Isabela-born Pagulayan even gave Valle tips on the soft break in his semifinal match with Antonio Gabica, whom the many-time Southeast Asian Games champ destroyed, 9-1.

"Had I lost, then I would have deserved it," Pagulayan said.

Pagulayan wiped out a 2-3 deficit by winning the next three racks, almost always winning out in a great battle for safety with Valle.

The last time Valle threatened was at 9-5, when Pagulayan committed a rare error of overdoing his preparation for the brown No. 7 to practically hand Valle the rack on a silver platter.

Pagulayan will leave for the United States next week to take part in another IPT event.

Valle, third placer Jeffrey de Luna and fourth placer Ronnie Alcano all earned slots to the rich World Pool Championship here, like Dennis Orcollo, who booked the fourth available slot via the backdoor, 9-6, over Rolando Garcia.

Spring Tagaytay cagers score, boost crown bid

SPRING TAGAYTAY KEPT ITS composure in the payoff period to subdue Lyceum, 95-90, and boost its quarterfinal bid in the 10th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament recently at the Lyceum gym.

Danny Capobres, Nani Epondulan, Arden Guiyab and Mar Reyes scored in double figures to help the combined Spring-Tagaytay squad of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Mayor Bambol Tolentino level its record at 3-3.

Skytex Foam halted 5th Avenue Telecom's winning streak at three, 86-79, while Laptop Pawnshop trimmed Banal na Pagaaral, 107-102, in other games.

Skytex waxed hot from start to finish, leading by as many as 20 points, 45-25, at halftime as it dealt 5th Avenue its first loss in four games while raising its record to 3-2.

Triple V-Media Golf Classic tees off at Wack Wack today

THE ANNUAL GOLF DUEL BEtween Triple V and Media celebrates its 20th year today with invited players from each team squaring off at the West course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong.

The 20th edition of the Triple V-Media Golf Classic is also the fifth Tito Eduque Memorial Cup in honor of the late national basketball coach and founding chair of the Triple V Group of Restaurants. The 18-hole event is part of the celebration of the 29th anniversary of Triple V Group on Aug. 26, Eduque's birthday.

It will be the first time that the event will be held at Wack Wack. First played at the Aguinaldo Golf and Country Club in 1987, the event had also been previously played in Intramuros, Villamor and Sta. Elena.

SPORTSWATCH

84 fights lined up at Roligon

THE BUSY STAG FIGHTING SEASON STARTS TODAY WITH THE BANAHAW 5-Stag Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. A total of 84 fights are slated starting 5 p.m. in the event hosted by Eddie Sioson. Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone are sponsors. Veteran cockers and breeders from Batangas, Laguna, Rizal, Quezon, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga and Cavite have also confirmed participation. Meanwhile, the listup for the Ray Showdown 6-Stag Derby, slated on Sept. 2, 5 and 7, is ongoing. For inquiries, call 851-2275; 833-1638 and 852-9812 or 0917-8277484 for farm-to-farm screening.

Big-time stagfest in Las Piñas Thursday

BIG-TIME COCKERS RETURN TO ACTION ON THURSDAY AND SATURDAY in the P1.5-million Las Piñas 6-Stag Derby at the Las Piñas Coliseum. Entries of prominent breeders like Patrick Antonio, former senator Ramon Revilla, Gov. Ito Ynares and boxing champ Manny Pacquiao, among others, will see action in the event that kicks off at 3 p.m. More than 100 fights are scheduled in each day of the fund-raising event backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and hosted by Las Piñas Mayor Nene Aguilar. For inquiries, call 873-1040, 8743910 or 0926-7450375.

Four NBC standouts make it to pro ranks

FOUR NBC (NATIONAL BASKETBALL CONference) veterans finally realized their dreams of making it to the Philippine Basketball Association after they were picked in the second round of the annual rookie draft Sunday.

The four are Mark Magsumbol, MC Caceres, Ronjay Enrile and Magnum Membrere.

Magsumbol, who played for first NBC champion Tribu Sugbu and Zanorte Hornbills before suiting up for the San Jose Skyrockets in the American Basketball Association, was picked 13th overall by the Sta. Lucia Realtors.

Caceres was chosen 14th overall by the Coca-cola Tigers, while Enrile and Membrere were 17th and 19th picks of Coca-cola and Red Bull, respectively.

Caceres, who played for Spring Cooking Oil of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla before joining Batang Tagaytay of NBC executive VP and Mayor Bambol Tolentino, was impressive during the PBA camp.

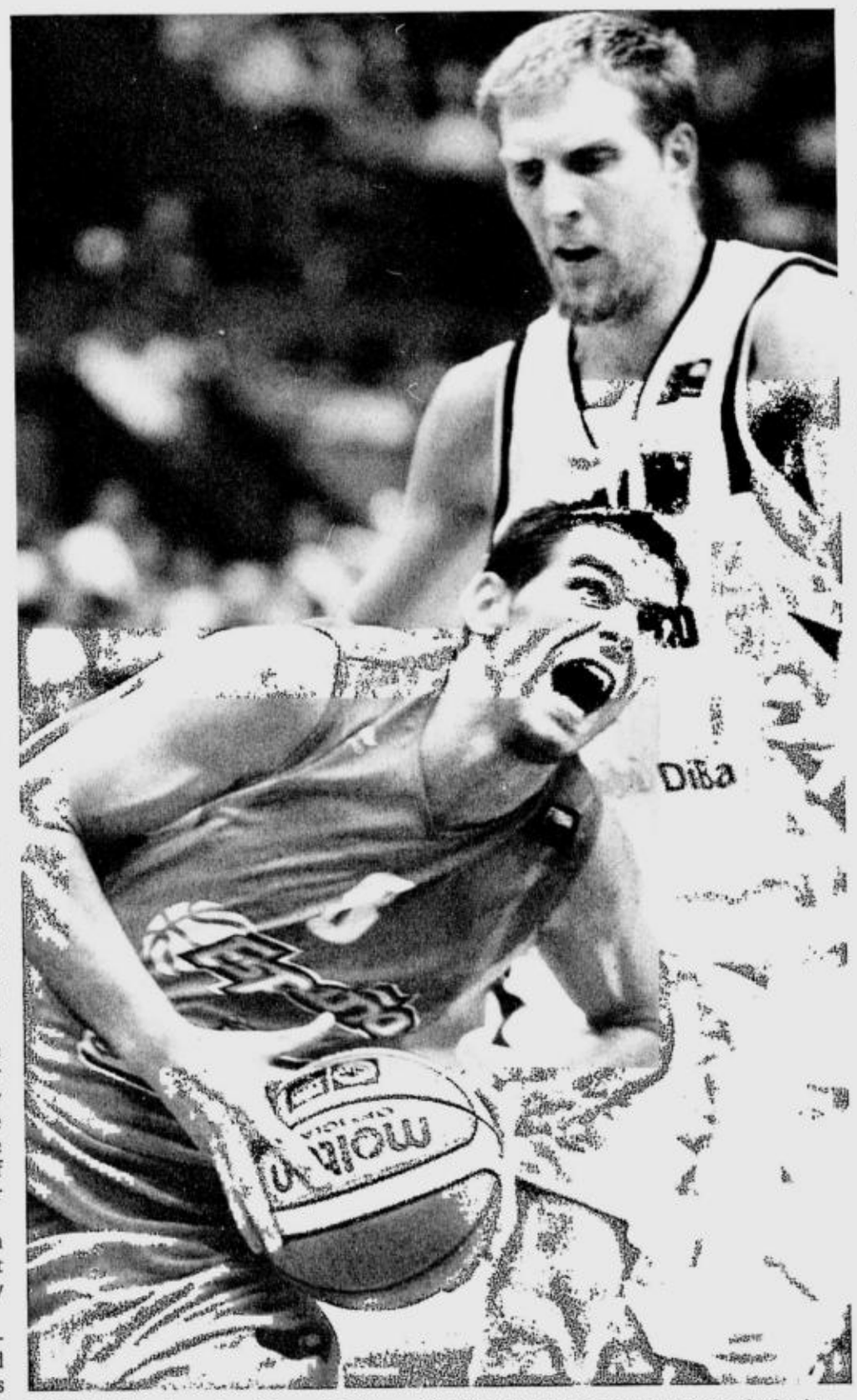
"MC (Caceres) was one of our go-to guys. He even helped my team gain the national semifinals," said Mayor Tolentino.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Money Man/Harrod's Magic (6), Crew Cut (3), Friendly Venture (4), Sharp Cookie/Jetprop (8)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Can And Will (4), Star Colony (5), Shy Girl (7), El Cid (1)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Napa Valley (6), Andee's Whisper (2), Rebound (4), Desert Breeze (5)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Hidalgo (10), I Don't Dance (6), Mountain Eagle (2), Words Of Joy (9), Hok Kee Hok (1)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—D'Minnow's (5), Yonder Girl (4), Leading Man (7), Scream For Change (3)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Half Medium (4), Noor (2), Revelation (3), Mesmerize (1)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—St. Germain (9), Capricorn Aida (7), Quasimodo (8), El Love Señora (11), Binukalan's Pride (13)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Paminsanminsan (7), Top Of D'Line (8), Doña None (4), Deity (2), Cartada Nueve (12), Classic Royale (14)

Spain blasts Germany; Argentina, Angola thru



SPAIN's NBA player Jose Manuel Calderon (8) of the Toronto Raptors drives to the basket off Germany's NBA player Dirk Nowitzki. AP

HAMAMATSU, JAPAN—SPAIN WON THE BATTLE OF EUROPEAN HEAVYweights to roll Germany while defending champions Serbia and Montenegro notched a crucial first win at the World Basketball Championships Monday.

Spain came away a 92-71 winner in a clash of NBA stars for a 3-0 record in Group B to book their ticket into the knockout stages that start Saturday in Saitama.

Toronto Raptors forward Jose Calderon scored a game-high 20 points for Spain, followed by teammates Juan Navarro at 19 and Memphis center Pau Gasol with 16. Germany's Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki made 14 for them.

In Group A, Serbia whipped Lebanon, 104-57, to keep its hopes alive after earlier losses to Nigeria and France.

Orlando Magic center Darko Milicic had his best outing yet, scoring 20 points for the Serbs, all in the first half, with forward Ognjen Askrabic contributing 14.

Angola became the first side into the knockout rounds by downing New Zealand, 95-73, behind 27 points from Eduardo Mingas for a 3-0 record.

Olympic champion Argentina joined them as an unbeaten team after swamping South American rival Venezuela, 96-54, with Walter Herrmann's 25 points setting the pace.

Spanish coach Pepu Hernandez, whose team avenged a loss to Germany in the semifinals of the European championships last year, said he always believed his squad had what it took to put one over its rival.

"It was a special game and we believed in our defense. We believed in how to hold good shooters," he said.

"We knew the strength of the German team and we did our best in our defense. We were a little better in our offense as well." Serbia head coach Dragan Sakota was another happy man, knowing defeat would have spelled disaster.

"For us it was very important to win the game," he said. "We knew we were a better team and had a better level, but especially after the two defeats, we needed to prove this." After losing to Nigeria and France, the defending champions must now win one of their final two matches against Venezuela or Argentina to advance.

Lebanon, who surprised Venezuela on the opening day of the tournament, must now beat France or Nigeria to have any chance of progressing.

Argentina's massive front line of San Antonio Spur Fabricio Oberto, Luis Scola and Ruben Wolkowyski dominated the boards for them, although 11 of 12 Argentine players scored.

"From the very beginning our intention was to play intense defense," Herrmann said. "The good job we did on defense paid off on offense in the end." Venezuela fell to 1-2 in Group A with the loss.

Angola is aiming for a better championship finish than their 11th-place showing in 2002, with coach Alberto Carvalho happy with what he has seen from his players so far.

"I'm satisfied with my players," he said. "New Zealand is a physically strong. We still kept going strong in defense and we played well in offense." New Zealand, winless in three Group B starts, is struggling with Japan and Panama for the final berth in the playoff rounds. Each six-team group sends the top four into the next phase.

Teams in Group C and Group D enjoyed a rest day, including the United States select NBA squad, China, Australia and European champion Greece. Those groups return to action Tuesday when Group A and Group B take a break. *AFP*

VENEZUELA's Victor Diaz (R) rams into Argentina's Emanuel Ginobili. REUTERS

Hurst prevails as Jang muffs it

PORTLAND, OREGON—PAT Hurst shot a final-round 68, then saw South Korean Jeong Jang miss a potential tying putt by inches here Sunday to win the $1.4 million LPGA Safeway Classic.

HURST

It was the first victory this season for the 37-year-old Hurst, who finished at 10-under 206.

"It was hard," Hurst said of seeing her fate in someone else's hands as Jang putted at 18. "I have no control, and you don't want to wish bad upon anybody.

"You want her to make the putt and you go from there. But it's very hard because you have no control and you just have to sit and wait." She was second at the US Women's Open in July and tied for second at the Franklin American Mortgage Championship in May.

Hurst entered the final round one shot behind four co-leaders but began with four birdies in her first five holes.

"I think it's important to post some numbers (early), especially when there's so many people up there that were so close," Hurst said. "I think to get off to a good start definitely helps and it makes everybody else play hard out there. I think that was key, is the start off hot.

After a bogey at the sixth, Hurst birdied seven and 11 and took a two-shot lead with another birdie on 15.

The 13-year veteran gave back a shot with a three-putt at 17, but rebounded with a par at 18, the toughest hole on the course.

"Sixteen, 17, 18 are really tough holes and to make a birdie out there," Hurst said. "If it's meant to be, they'll make birdies out there. But if you play steady in your round, I think you have a good chance of winning." Jang, playing two groups behind Hurst, bogeyed 12, and missed excellent opportunities on 14, 16 and 17.

Jang finished tied for second with American Kim Saiki, who shot a 67. Juli Inkster (70) was at 208 and South Koreans Gloria Park (70) and Jee Young Lee (71) shared fifth at 210. *AFP*

No rest day for NBA stars seeking gold

SAPPORO, JAPAN—THERE ARE NO DAYS off for the United States when it comes to reclaiming global supremacy at the World Basketball Championships.

The US team of National Basketball Association stars conducted a light optional workout here Monday, enjoying a brief break before playing their last three first-round games over three days starting Tuesday against Slovenia.

There were no sightseeing plans for the Americans, no distractions such as Senegal's team trip to an electronics shop.

After NBA players suffered a humbling sixth-place finish at the 2002 worlds at Indianapolis and settled for third at the 2004 Athens Olympics, this group of NBA standouts is on a mission to take back the throne.

"It's important. We feel it. We're taking it as an opportunity to get some type of vindication," said Elton Brand, a forward for the Los angeles Clippers.

"We're not taking anyone lightly. We're studying the films and putting in the work at practice." Teamwork is the hallmark of US success so far, including a 111-100 victory over Puerto Rico and a 121-90 rout of China. The Americans lead the tournament in points, assists, steals, blocked shots and shooting accuracy. *AFP*

US Open to employ instant video replay

MCENROE

LONDON—TWENty-five years after John McEnroe yelled at an umpire "You cannot be serious, that ball was on the line... chalk flew up!" such tirades could become a thing of the past when Instant Replay makes it Grand Slam debut at the US Open next week.

McEnroe's frequent outbursts may have made a case for introducing the technology decades ago.

But it was a controversial call during Jennifer Capriati's 2004 US Open quarterfinal victory over Serena Williams which propelled the United States Tennis Association (USTA) to try an eliminate human error from officiating.

Open organizers apologized to Williams after umpire Mariana Alves incorrectly overruled her backhand as out at deuce in the first game of the deciding set even though the lineswoman called it good.

The furor over the incident and other tight calls that went against Williams started the process of using video replays to assist umpires.

The system uses Hawkeye technology—available to television viewers for several years—as an on-court officiating tool.

Electronic line-calling can measure ball position to within three millimeters using eight court cameras. *Reuters*

Vengeful Phelps, Hansen smash world records at Pan Pac meet

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA—FUELED BY A BIG defeat to a teammate, Michael Phelps responded with a world-record win for his fifth gold medal at the Pan Pacific Championships on Sunday.

Not to be outdone, fellow American Brendan Hansen lowered his own world record in the 200 breaststroke for the second time in two weeks, beating Olympic champion Kosuke Kitajima of Japan.

Phelps powered past teammate Ryan Lochte on the final lap, touching in 1 minute, 55.84 seconds. That bettered his old mark of 1:55.94, set in 2003 at a meet in his home state of Maryland.

"I hate to lose," said Phelps, referring to Aaron Peirsol's 2.37-second victory over him in the 200 backstroke Saturday night.

Phelps opened the first 50 of butterfly under world-record pace.

"I wanted to make a statement in the first 50 and just leave it in the pool," he said.

Lochte finished in 1:56.11. Ken Takakuwa of Japan earned bronze.

Phelps won six medals, including five gold, and set world records in the 200 IM, 200 butterfly and 400 freestyle relay. His only loss was to Peirsol.

In the men's 200 breaststroke, Hansen led all the way and touched in 2:08.50—slicing 0.24 seconds off the mark he set Aug. 5 at the US national championships in Irvine, Calif. *AP*

PHELPS powers way to fifth gold. AFP

Ivanovic forges final with Hingis

MONTREAL—ANA IVANOVIC of Serbia advanced to the final of the $1.34 million (euro1.05 million) Rogers Cup with a rain-interrupted 6-1, 6-4 victory over Dinara Safina of Russia on Sunday.

The players completed a match that was suspended due to rain on Saturday night with Ivanovic leading 6-1, 3-4.

More rain fell Sunday and the match resumed more than five hours later than scheduled in chilly, windy conditions with only a few hundred fans left in the seats at Uniprix Stadium.

Ivanovic finished off the victory by sweeping three straight games.

ANA Ivanovic of Serbia celebrates semifinal win. AP

Ivanovic will meet former world No. 1 Martina Hingis of Switzerland in the final which, weather permitting, was to be played later Sunday. If not, the match will be moved to Monday.

Safina also was to play a doubles semifinal with Katarina Srebotnik of Slovenia against Cara Black of Zimbabwe and Anna-Lena Groenefeld of Germany. That match may be moved to the adjacent Jarry Tennis Centre.

The winner advances to the final against Martina Navratilova of the United States and Nadia Petrova of Russia. Navratilova is to retire after the US Open that begins Aug. 28. *AP*

Roddick in fine form again, nails first title

MASON, OHIO—ANDY RODDick got down on his chest and placed his lips on the blue tennis court that was pockmarked by his latest barrage of aces.

No better moment for his first such kiss.

The 23-year-old American won his first championship in more than a year Sunday, beating Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero, 6-3, 6-4, at the Western & Southern Financial Group Masters to complete his remarkable comeback from injury and futility.

When he finished it with three emphatic aces, Roddick kissed the ground, tossed his racket into the stands and took a victory lap, slapping hands with any fan he could reach as a way of sharing that long-lost championship feeling.

"It was kind of a relief," Roddick said. "This is a special place for me, and I definitely wanted to share it with whoever I could in the crowd."

For most of the year, the former US Open champion and No. 1 player has been lost in the crowd. His flameout at Wimbledon brought suggestions that his career was on the downswing.

Just when he started playing well again last month, he strained his side and couldn't serve, sidelining him for two weeks. With the US Open approaching, he was erased from the short list of players who might beat defending champion Roger Federer.

He has put his name back on the list. AP

Gorres poised to replace Bautista

ORIENT-PACIFIC SUPERFLYWEIGHT CHAMP AND WBO NO. 1 contender Z Gorres says he is ready to take the spot of injured stablemate Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista if the latter foregoes his Sept. 16 showdown with Brazilian Giovanni Andrade. The fight is in the undercard of the Marco Antonio Barrera-Rocky Juarez rematch at the MGM Grand Hotel & Casino. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

Bardon ready to defend RP fly title

PHILIPPINE FLYWEIGHT CHAMPION JOJO BARDON OF THE WAkee Salud Stable is all set to defend his title against Abdul Eraham on Aug. 26 at the San Carlos City Auditorium in the "Engkwentro sa San Carlos Tres" card. Bardon, who has won 14 of his previous fights, eight of them by knockout, is expected to have rough sailing against the durable Eraham. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo	8	0
Univ of East	6	2
Far Eastern	4	5
National U	3	5
Adamson	3	5
Santo Tomas	3	5
Univ of Phils	2	6

GAMES THURSDAY
(*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
2 p.m.—Univ. of Eeast vs National U (Srs)
4 p.m.—Santo Tomas vs Far Eastern (Srs)

'Streak's fine but a title is better'

SO WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE ATEneo Blue Eagles' winning streak?

Nothing much, as far as coach Norman Black is concerned, although avid followers of the UAAP just can't ignore the fact that Ateneo's current eight-game victory run was also achieved by the school's 2002 team that went on to win the title.

"I don't really get too hung-up with the streak, to be honest," he said. "I'm more concerned with the end result, which is to make it to the Finals and try to win the championship. If we streak it to get there, that's fine. If we don't, that's fine also."

Just two games into the second round of the men's basketball tournament, the Eagles have already claimed the twice-to-beat advantage in the Final Four.

An elimination-round sweep gives the Eagles an automatic slot in the Finals, leaving the three other semifinalists to duke it out for the remaining seat in the championship round.

"Every game right now is crucial for us because we want to stay a step ahead of UE," said Black.

After the Eagles tripped the University of the Philippines Maroons with a 98-88 decision last Sunday, Black watched from the stands as the University of the East Warriors crushed the Far Eastern Tamaraws at 86-73.

"Our concern right now is if we stumble along the way and then UE wins straight," said Black. "We play them on the last (elimination) game of the UAAP, so we might play against them for the number one slot. So it's important for us not to stumble in the meantime."

The Eagles still have to play the Santo Tomas Tigers, the National Bulldogs, the Tamaraws and the Warriors (6-2). *By Jasmine W. Payo*

Dozen toast to terrific Tiger

From page A20

No sweat, either.

One month after his victory at the British Open, where he sobbed on his caddie's shoulder while remembering his late father, Woods became the first player in history go consecutive years winning at least two majors.

"It wasn't the same as Hoylake, maybe just because I was in contention to win a major after my dad passed," Woods said. "It was just a totally different feeling."

Woods built a four-shot lead at the turn and might have broken his scoring record at the PGA Championship if he had been pushed. Instead, he played for the middle of the green and lagged his putts, finishing at 18-under 270.

Along the way, his competition could do nothing but watch.

"He's just too good," said Shaun Micheel, who closed with a 69 and won the battle for second place. "Unless you're at the top of your game, you just can't play with him."

Asked about his father, who died of cancer in May, Woods offered a wisecrack about Pop's first lesson.

"I kept saying all day, 'Just putt to the picture.' That's how I first learned how to putt," Woods said. "He actually knew what he was talking about."

That club was largely responsible for this major. Along with an opening birdie, Woods added 40-foot birdie putts on Nos. 6 and 8, sweeping his putter to sunny skies with his head down as he walked to the hole.

THE TITLE in the bag, Tiger Woods walks off the 18th green with wife Elin Nordegren. REUTERS

Twice at Medinah

Woods became the first player to win the PGA Championship twice on the same course. He outlasted Sergio Garcia at Medinah in 1999, the start of one of the most dominant stretches in golf.

This was his third straight victory, and could signal another big run.

"Yeah, I feel like things are pretty going darn good right now," Woods said.

So much for those worries about Woods after he missed the cut at the US Open. He now has won his last three tournaments, the first time he has done that in five years. He now is 12-0 when his name is atop the leaderboard going into the last round of a major.

"Jack Nicklaus, he's the only other guy I've ever seen who looks more comfortable leading on the back nine of a major than playing the first hole of a tournament," Chris DiMarco said. "And that's pretty scary. He just puts the hammer down."

Nicklaus was home in North Palm Beach, Florida, but he saw enough of the final round on television to appreciate how easy Woods made it look.

"He's that good," Nicklaus said in an e-mail. "The guy is playing just great golf, terrific golf."

Nicklaus won his 18 majors over 25 years. Woods has won 12 in his first 10 years on the PGA Tour, and there doesn't appear to be anyone capable of stopping him.

Three way tie

Luke Donald was tied for the lead going into the final round at Medinah and didn't make a birdie, closing with a 74 to finish in a tie for third at 12-under 276 with Adam Scott (67) and Garcia (70).

"Tiger just doesn't back up," said Steve Stricker. "He doesn't let anybody get close to him, especially in the last round."

So dominant was this performance that Woods made only three bogeys the entire week, including a harmless one on the par-3 17th hole over Lake Kadijah when he was playing it safe. All that cost him was the scoring record in relation to par. He settled for 18 under, the same score he posted at Valhalla in 2000.

At least by five

It was the fifth major that Woods won by at least five shots. He now has won his 12 majors by a combined 56 shots, while Nicklaus won his 18 majors by 44 shots.

That Woods has never lost a 54-hole lead in a major was enough to make some believe it was due to happen, especially on a soft course yielding low scores and a strong cast of contenders behind him.

He went 10 years before missing a cut in a major. Would this be the one he blew in the final round? No.

US Open champion Geoff Ogilvy found water on the second hole and three-putted from 8 feet on No. 3 to disappear. Garcia chunked a wedge and made bogey on the par-5 seventh to stall his momentum. Mike Weir got within one shot of Woods at No. 5, but he couldn't keep up the pace and fell back to a 73.

Donald was in contention at a major, but not for long.

Woods hit 7-iron into 10 feet, and kept his head so still over his birdie putt that he didn't look up until it was inches from dropping in.

Bad break

No one caught him the rest of the day.

Donald caught a bad break when his ball landed in a muddy divot on No. 4, leading to his first bogey in 40 holes.

He missed a 5-foot birdie on the par-5 fifth, and that effectively ended his tournament.

The only drama left was the US Ryder Cup team, and that also turned into a snoozer.

The top 10 players who earned a spot on the team were Woods, Phil Mickelson, Jim Furyk, David Toms, Chad Campbell, DiMarco, Vaughn Taylor, JJ Henry, Zach Johnson and Brett Wetterich. *AP*

Golf Career Grand Slams

Jack Nicklaus (18 titles)	Tiger Woods (12 titles)	Ben Hogan (9 titles)	Gene Sarazen (7 titles)	Walter Hagen (11 titles)
6 Masters: 1963, 1965-66, 1972, 1975, 1986	4 Masters: 1997, 2001, 2002, 2005	2 Masters: 1951, 1953	3 Masters: 1961, 1974, 1978	1 Masters: 1935
4 U.S. Open: 1962, 1967, 1972, 1980	2 U.S. Open: 2000, 2002	4 U.S. Open: 1948, 1950-51, 1953	1 U.S. Open: 1965	2 U.S. Open: 1922, 1932
3 British Open: 1966, 1970, 1978	3 British Open: 2000, 2005-06	1 British Open: 1953	3 British Open: 1959, 1968, 1974	1 British Open: 1932
5 PGA Championship: 1963, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1980	3 PGA Championship: 1999-00, 2006	2 PGA Championship: 1946, 1948	2 PGA Championship: 1962, 1972	3 PGA Championship: 1922-23, 1933
26 Career Grand Slam	24 Career Grand Slam	41 Career Grand Slam	29 Career Grand Slam	33 Career Grand Slam

SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INQFOGRAPHIC: ESAMBO

Crack RP bets get going in Singapore

SINGAPORE—MARVIN DUmandan and Jay Bayron will try to retain the team title for the Philippines and, hopefully, add the individual crown as well in the Singapore Open Amateur Championship beginning today at the Singapore Island Country Club's Bukit course.

Fresh from a stint at the North Orange Country Amateur Championship in California which Dumandan won, the RP bets are confident of retaining the team crown Juvic Pagunsan and Michael Bibat won last year over Malaysia.

"In terms of confidence-building and exposure, our stint in the US helped us a lot," said Dumandan in Filipino.

The 27-year-old Dumandan and Bayron head the pool of players training under the Ictsi program put up by the Philippines' leading and port management companies to provide the country's jungolfers and amateurs the proper venue to hone their talent and skills.

Fifteen countries, among them the US, England, Australia, New Zealand and RP's perennial regional rival Thailand, are seeing action.

"Premium will be on hitting the fairways and course management since the fairways are tight with three long par-3s to boot," said national team coach Bong Lopez.

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Pro Activ	Nickelodeon					Sentro Headlines	Letty La Mas Fea		Dobie Cara		Philippine Idol Exclusive	Ultimate Gumtries World Records		ALI		Big News	Fear Factor	Philippine Idol Exclusive (11:45PM)
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Zenki	Yakitate! Japan	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning		Sa Piling Mo	My Girl	A Love To Kill	Bandila	Correspondents	Miranda De Mujer
AXN		House (Season II)		Worst Case Scenario		The Ultimate Fighter		Pensamela (Season III)		The Amazing Race 7		Rated K		Mondo Magic Singapore	Mondo Magic Singapore			Rescue Me (Season II)	
Cartoon Network	Pixie & Dixie/ My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Simpsons	Samurai Jack/ Sayonara, Samurai Jack	PokeMon	Dice	Gundam Seed Destiny/ Shaman King	The Simpsons/ Courage The Cowardly Dog	Teen Titans/ The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Justice League Unlimited/ The Simpsons	The Batman/ Aqua Teen Hunger Force/ Sealab 2021	X-Men: Evolution/ Gundam Seed	Static Shock/ Shaman King
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Dominick Dunne's Power, Prestige & Justice		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Body Of Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		The Grid		E-Ring		Law & Order: Criminal Intent	
Discovery Channel		I Shouldn't Be Alive		Rides		Conspiracy Theories		Perfect Disaster		Wild Discovery		Hour Asia		A Walking With Dinosaurs Trilogy		Perfect Disaster		Blueprint For Disaster	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Ad Black/Unlakative Bunny	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World of Disney			Wicked Science Yr. 2	Phil Of The Future	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN						World Teqgin Masters '05		Extreme Programming Sports Max 2006/07		Philips Singapore Cup Be Argentina Vs Slovenia				Sportscenter Asia	Pool! Snooker Premier Snooker League '05				Sportscenter Asia
ETC	Insider Weekend	Project Runaway 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		One Tree Hill 3		The O.C.3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen (Degeneres) Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Skating With Celebrities		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Super Salnis	Chariot Of Mercy/ Angelus On The Record With Greta Van Sustaren	ABCatholic	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Mirror Of The Soul	Lord, Have Mercy	Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Canada Of Divine Mercy		Octavia Dies	Web Of Faith	
Fox News				The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pasubabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Majika		Lux NY (8:50 PM)	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Bahay Mo Ba Ito?			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sea Thomas F. B. Eye II		Mcleod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Hustle II		Judging Amy		A Place For Annie			
HBO			New On The Big Screen In August (3:45 PM)	Major Payne (4:15 PM)				Soul Of The Game			Anchorman: The Legend Of Ron Burgundy			Entourage 09: Boys Are Back In Town		Meg Cosentaldy & Armed And Fabulous			
Hero TV	Cinderella Boy	Tokyo Underground		Super Gals	Mimo de Pon	Sugar The Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	BCaman Bakugaiden	Bantayde G-Revolution	Cinderella Boy	Tokyo Underground	Naruto
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Serbis On The Go	IBC Express Balita	Panggarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Amis		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Amis	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Smackdown				X-Men Evolution	Justice League	Bottomline		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Just For Laughs	My Name Is Earl	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Designer Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Emeril Live		Boy Meets Grill	El Nuevo Weekend		Look For Less	Martha		Napa Style	Sheila Bridges Designer Living	Guess Who's Coming To Decorate	
MTV Philippines MYX		Pimp My Ride Rock MYX	Cribs My MYX	Mellow MYX	MTV Hits Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions	MYX Firsts!	Star MYX	Get Spotted OPM MYX	Pop MYX	TRL MYX Daily Top Ten		Pimp My Ride Top Of The Pops	Cribs Radio MYX	MTV Arena MYX News	My MYX	MTV Hits MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic	Wild Orphans	National Geographic Specials		Built for Destruction: Lightning		Hidden Worlds: River Jordan - Waters Of Life		Top 5 - England Unveiled		WOW! Be the Creature: Expedition Great White Shark		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Crash Scene Investigation: Runaway Train		Sport Talk Skeleton Lakes	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alert	Divas Ko, Mahal Ko Ba Siya?	Teledyaryo W/ Ely Saludar & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K			
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-Ala Sa Daang Dilan		Ang Tamang Dalin		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	Ang Mga Nagsi-Ala Sa Daang Dilan		Ang Pagbubuyag		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Auto Motor Sport
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
Qtv	Goodluck	Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station) Kapatid Show		Moms		Phoenix	Irene	Fireworks	Damo	Project 11	Na-Scam Ka Na Ba?		News On Q	Sandy Muling Makapiling		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping					RPN Aksyon News		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	North Shore		Australia's Next Top Model		Jake In Progress	Sex & the City	Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
SBN 21								Sony Music Vidoz				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports			2006 FIBA World C'ship Games: Greece vs Australia				GWS 30-2006	Busch Volleyball: DVB: Men's- France		2006 FIBA World C'ship Games: Slovenia vs USA				World Pool 2006 Masters		Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	World Table Tennis SF	
Sports Plus			The International Highlights		Inside the PGA	World Game		GES Madunpiaza 400 Highlights		BM Clay Shooting The Ticket	Nopi Tunervision The Wedding Date	Ultimate Fighting C'ship Best of '01				World Poker Tour Hollywood Home			
Star Movies	Renaissance Man (2:45 PM)					Simon Birch								Employee Of The Month	Robot (10:35PM)				
Star World	Becker	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Desperate Housewives		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Life As We Know It		Life As We Know It		Kevin Hill		Seinfeld	Life As We Know It
Studio 23		Yu-Gi-Oh				Batman Beyond	Monkey Typhoon	Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	High School Reunion	Smallville (8:15 PM)		Gilmore Girls		News Central	Oprah (10:45PM)		MYXlog

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Tan firm presses claim on Naia 3

AEDC offers to finish project, pay Piatco

By Daxim L. Lucas

LUCIO TAN-OWNED ASIA'S EMERGING DRAGONS CORP. (AEDC) has upped the ante in its bid to take control of the mothballed Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 3.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, AEDC lead counsel and spokesperson Perfecto Yasay stressed their interest in the controversial facility, saying they were willing to assume the financial obligations of paying the terminal's builders.

"AEDC is willing to pay Piatco just compensation because AEDC cannot unjustly enrich itself," he said. "We will not get it for free."

Piatco, or Philippine International Air Terminals Corp., won the contract

TAN FIRM/ B2

IN THIS ISSUE

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■ **WTO talks** revival sought /B8

SSS chief barred from holding EPCIB post

By Doris C. Dumlao

A LEADERSHIP REVAMP LOOMS IN EQUITABLE PCI Bank as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas barred Social Security System president Corazon dela Paz from concurrently serving as chair of the country's third biggest bank.

During its meeting Thursday last week, the BSP's policy-making board approved a resolution disqualifying Dela Paz from acting as officer of EPCIBank, due to a provision in the General Banking Law of 2000 prohibiting public officials from taking top positions in private banks, BSP sources said.

Section 19 of the law states that "(e)xcept as otherwise provided in the Rural Banks Act, no appointive or elective public official, whether full-time or part-time, shall at the same time serve as officer of any private bank, save in cases where such service is incident to financial assistance provided by the government or a government-owned or -controlled corporation to the bank or unless otherwise provided under existing laws."

However, Dela Paz will be allowed to remain as bank director representing the state-owned pension fund SSS, which has a 29-percent stake in the bank and is the second biggest voting block next to the SM group.

The Monetary Board deemed the chairperson as an "officer" of the bank, although EPCIBank had sought to amend its bylaws to exclude the chair and vice chair among the roster of officers. But a proposed amendment in the bylaws was not approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the BSP sources said.

As such, the BSP sources said the BSP's policy-making board had to act in favor of the petition filed by the Romualdez family's Trans Middle East Equity Philippines Inc. (TMEQ).

TMEQ had also petitioned that all five nominees of the SM group in EPCIBank as well as the independent directors be disqualified from the board, but the MB did not find merit in the grounds cited against the other directors.

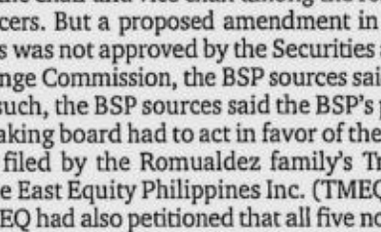
A BSP source explained that the ground used against Dela Paz meant that Government Service Insurance System president Winston Garcia could also be stripped of the right to sit as vice chair, but since Garcia was not included in TMEQ's petition for disqualification, no such order was issued.

Dela Paz, who is on an overseas vacation,

SSS CHIEF/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

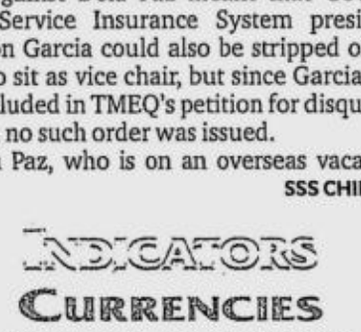


₱51.115 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 18, 2006

¥115.42 = $1
As of 3 p.m., Aug. 21, 2006

GOLD: $622.00-622.50
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 21, 2006

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Markets resume trading

FINANCIAL MARKETS WERE CLOSED YESterday for a public holiday marking the 23rd anniversary of the assassination of pro-democracy leader Benigno Aquino Jr. Currency and stock markets reopen today, with analysts expecting equities to trade sideways in the absence of sentiment-moving news.

Gov't to use state-owned firms in pump-priming plan

By Doris C. Dumlao

SEEKING TO MOBILIZE GOVERNment-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) in economic pump-priming, Malacañang has scrapped an Estrada-era executive order that tightened all state-controlled credit programs.

In an executive order dated Aug. 8, President Macapagal-Arroyo repealed an EO dated Aug. 10, 1999, titled "Directing Government Entities Involved in the Implementation of Credit Programs to Adopt the Credit Policy Guidelines Formulated by the National Credit Council."

Estrada issued the old EO at the time that the government was incurring huge budget deficits. There were a number of government-funded credit programs that were inefficiently managed and implemented, resulting in huge inefficiencies and waste of scarce government resources.

The repealed EO was anchored on the following principles:

- Greater role of the private sector in the provision of financial services to the basic sector.
- Adoption of market-oriented financial and credit policies such as market-oriented interest rates on loans and deposits.
- Government to provide an enabling policy environment, critical support services and capacity-building services that will facilitate the increased participation of the private sector in the delivery of credit services.
- Non-participation of government non-financial agencies and GOCCs in the implementation of credit programs.

The old EO also promoted savings mobilization among government financial institutions. State entities were also dissuaded from providing credit services directly or indirectly to various sectors.

But under the new financing framework drawn up by Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri for the government's medium-term infrastructure development program, GOCCs and government financial institutions would have a greater role in implementing priority projects.

For instance, state-owned lenders Development Bank of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines were being tapped to provide financing for local government units.

The DBP has P228 billion in assets and about P30-P40 billion in cash, while Landbank has P330 billion in assets and P40 billion in loanable funds.

Role of GOCCs in credit programs eased

Neri also identified other GOCCs which were in good financial position to help the government's pump-priming, among them Philippine National Oil Co., which has P12 billion in free cash; Bases Conversion Development Authority, P79 billion in assets and P68 billion in equity; National Development Co., which has good rating in the local bond market; Philexim, $3.5 billion in potential sovereign guarantee, and Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC), potential owner of vast public lands of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

For instance, Neri noted that GOCC agricultural plantations or those jointly owned with the private secor could enhance value-creation from road projects.

But Neri was also concerned that GOCC lending to state-owned projects would breach the ceilings on Dosri (lending to directors, officers, stockholders and related interests).

The international donor community has urged the government to plug expenditure leakages caused by corruption and free up more funds for vital infrastructure and social spending. During this year's Philippine Development Forum, the country's official development assistance partners, multilateral and bilateral donors from 18 countries proposed follow-up measures to allow a larger number of Filipinos to benefit from progress made in fiscal consolidation.

Pump-priming program gets P8.6B from VAT collection

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS released some P8.6 billion to finance the Arroyo administration's pump-priming programs this year, with the funds coming from the VAT Reform law.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said that of the amount, P6.7 billion was disbursed to fund several social services. These included the procurement of additional textbooks for public school children and hospital equipment, school feeding program, and health insurance subsidies.

Teves said that the remaining P1.9 billion was released to finance infrastructure-development projects, including school buildings, housing, extension of the Line 1 of the Light Rail Transit, and construction and repair of public hospitals.

Following the disbursement by the national government, implementing government agencies were directed to maximize the funds to realize the objectives of pump-priming.

The P8.6 billion, the amount disbursed as of July 25, forms part of the P38.2 billion in total additional collections in the first seven months of the year from the implementation of the VAT law.

The VAT law states that 30 percent of the additional tax collection this year should be allocated for infrastructure projects and social services. The bulk, or 70 percent, is intended to reduce the government's budget deficit.

The Department of Finance has estimated that the VAT law would generate P75 billion in additional tax collection this year alone.

The VAT law basically expanded the coverage of the value-added tax to include previously exempted products like oil and electricity, and previously exempted services rendered by lawyers and doctors. The law likewise raised the VAT rate to 12 percent from 10 percent.

Considered the centerpiece of the Arroyo administration's fiscal reform agenda, it took effect in November last year, although the provision on the VAT rate increase became effective only last February.

TEVES

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier issued Administrative Order No. 141, which mandated concerned agencies to do a periodic reporting on the use of RVAT proceeds.

The order was supported by the DOF since a regular report on the use of VAT collections would ensure the public that the the higher taxes they paid eventually benefited them.

BCDA says airport authority owes it P1B in lease payments

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ALREADY SADDLED WITH COLlection problems for its John Hay property and wrangling parcels of land with retired members of the military and police forces in Fort Bonifacio, the Bases Conversion Development Authority said it also has some P1 billion in receivables from the Manila International Airport Authority.

BCDA president and chief executive Narciso L. Abaya said arrears related to the 63.3-hectare land occupied by the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 had accumulated since 1999.

"BCDA and Miaa disagree on the reckoning of when payments should start," Abaya explained. "BCDA insists that the lease starts upon turnover of the property's possession while Miaa insists this should be upon full operation of the terminal."

The case is currently under mediation with the Department of Justice.

Abaya said that under the 25-year lease contract, Miaa is supposed to pay P158 a year in the first five years with the amount increasing by 5 percent every five years.

Naia Terminal 3 remains mothballed pending arbitration cases filed in Washington D.C. and in Singapore regarding expropriation procedures against Philippine International Air Terminals Co., which developed the facility. *(See related story on Page B1.)*

The government had taken expropriation steps late in 2004 in what officials said were efforts to have the terminal operating at the soonest time possible.

In January 2005, the Pasay City Regional Trial Court ordered the government to pay Piatco $62.3 million for the expropriation.

In the same month, the Supreme Court, acting on the solicitor general's petition against the compensation amount—issued a temporary restraining order on the Pasay RTC decision "until further orders."

BCDA is also pursuing at least P2.2 billion in arrears from the developer of its John Hay property in Baguio City.

It had terminated its lease contract with CJH Development Corp. and has moved to take over direct management of the property, but the two parties had been on a deadlock since a local court last year prevented the BCDA takeover.

Also in contention is the BCDA property Poro Point where the agency, working with the Philippine Ports Authority, had tried to take over the sea port because the operator was allegedly violating environmental laws, among other things.

Man for all reasons

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IT IS NOT TRUE THAT BCDA PRESIDENT Narciso Abaya is running out of incredible reasons. In fact, he now sees nothing in media reports but a vicious scheme to remove him from his government position.

Abaya is the retired general who two weeks ago ordered the military raid of Poro Point in La Union province, the busiest seaport north of Metro Manila.

To Abaya, at least based on reports quoting the ex-general, his sacking is the only reason behind the persistent reports on the developments in the Poro Point dramatic takeover.

You mean, sir, it's not the frightening fact that the government, under this cute administration of Gloriaetta, sent heavily armed troops just to renege on a business deal?

* * *

TO BEGIN with, the military raid of Poro Point is the government's misguided way to wiggle out of a 25-year business contract.

In 1999, a BCDA subsidiary called PPMC entered into a joint venture with a private company called Bulk Handlers to operate Poro Point.

Only seven years later, BCDA decides that it's time to get out of the deal, which nevertheless can be a legal nightmare.

Three legal opinions—again, THREE—coming from the BCDA legal counsel, the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, and PPMC itself, said the contract is binding and legal.

But the problem is with the BCDA, since it cannot fulfill its end of the contract, particularly the turnover of 80 hectares of port area to the joint venture.

For its part, the joint venture is consistent in delivering the promised income of P50 million a year to the government.

What reason on earth, plausible or otherwise, funny or pathetic, can the BCDA board and management use to remove Bulk Handlers?

The subsidiary PPMC already passed a board resolution declaring the contract null and void, but the court put a restraining order on the resolution.

Finally, the BCDA found a reason: The joint venture has no environmental clearance. Clearly, the government must send the troops immediately.

Enter the "influential person" angle into the equation. The BCDA legal counsel revealed in a memo that he was under pressure to change his opinion, after being told that the order came from an "influential person." Who can it be now?

News reports pointed to Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, the star witness of this cute administration in its plunder case against the man named Band ... Wrist Band.

Singson denied the reports, and the only way to solve the mystery is to make PPMC president Juanito Antonio reveal his or her identity.

(Antonio, according to the BCDA legal counsel, personally delivered the message from the "influential person.")

Earlier, word in business had it that the former head of BCDA, a successful private sector executive named Rufo Colayco, was sacked by the Palace upon the prodding of ... well, also an "influential person."

And it was over the same issue—you know, control of Poro Point

Keeping that "influential person" happy, therefore, is the surest way for the BCDA head to keep his job—then and now.

And now our man for all seasons, former General Abaya, to provide a reason (funny or otherwise) for the media reports on the Poro Point military raid, suddenly claims somebody merely wants him out of his job.

I think it's the other way around. The military raid came about because some BCDA people originally wanted to keep their jobs. They are just in the habit of using all sorts of reasons for everything they do.

* * *

THE FORMER chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange, Robert Coyuito, according to my neighbor Cocktales, vehemently denied that he had anything to do with the "Jose Tinio" letter.

Methinks it's a case of the cart getting ahead of the horse. You know—Tuesday coming earlier than Monday. Okay, going to the toilet even before eating at the table.

The letter basically only accused Supreme Court justices of corruption. And by the way, it was sent to all the justices of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, the Senate, the Office of the President, and media offices.

Anyway, Cocktales reported that Coyuito was responding to chatter emanating from the Manila Golf Club, in which the letter's target, Macario Te, is said to be a habitué.

In any poison letter such as that, the Supreme Court justices of course always suspect that some groups were behind the operation. It could only serve to destroy the reputation of the justices, as individuals, and the entire Supreme Court, as an institution. It's not a good prospect for any group to be suspected by the justices of doing that.

Now, I think it was prudent on Coyuito's part to deny any insinuation, imagined or otherwise, about his or his group's involvement in the letter.

He is the only one to do so as far as anybody in media knows.

* * *

BETWEEN us girls, the race is on between Smart and Globe for the wireless broadband service. Hundreds of millions of dollars are involved, not to mention political connection. A political clan is said to be behind a company that Globe is courting for a buyout. (Oh, thanks to political influence, the company only has one (of only two) NTC-licensed frequencies for the service.) Smart already bought a company which has the other frequency. Smart must hurdle a political obstacle—something to do with Congress.

NOTICE OF MERGER

PHILAM SAVINGS BANK

AIG AIG Credit Card Company Philippines, Inc.

Notice is hereby given that the Articles of Merger and Plan of Merger of **PHILAM SAVINGS BANK, INC.**, a corporation duly organized and existing under Philippine law with office address at the 2/F Salustiana D. Ty Tower, 104 Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village, Makati City (hereinafter referred to as "PHILAMBANK"), as the surviving corporation, and **AIG CREDIT CARD COMPANY PHILIPPINES, INC.**, a corporation duly organized and existing in accordance with Philippine law with office address at the 15th Floor, San Miguel Properties Center, St. Francis Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City (hereinafter referred to as "AIGCCCPI"), as the absorbed corporation, have been approved in meetings duly called for the purpose by the majority vote of their respective Boards of Directors and by at least two thirds (2/3) votes of the outstanding capital stocks of both PHILAMBANK and AIGCCCPI.

Upon the effectivity of the merger, PHILAMBANK shall continue to operate under the name "**AIG PHILAM SAVINGS BANK, INC.**"

This announcement shall serve as notice to all parties concerned (including the creditors of PHILAMBANK and/or AIGCCCPI) of the legal effects of the merger between PHILAMBANK and AIGCCCPI, and the legal dissolution of the absorbed corporation (AIGCCCPI).

MANUEL L. ORTEGA
Corporate Secretary
Philam Savings Bank, Inc. and
AIG Credit Card Company Philippines, Inc.

Tan firm presses claim on Naia 3

From page B1

to build Terminal 3 in the late 1990s after trumping the proposal of AEDC, which was the original proponent of the project.

Yasay pointed out, however, that the actual cost of the airport facility was much lower than the amount being claimed by Piatco or its German partner Fraport A.G.

Yasay said that based on an audit of the terminal, the actual cost of the building was between $175 million and $200 million.

In contrast to this amount, Piatco claimed that the project cost stood at $565 million, while its German investor claimed to have shelled out slightly more than $400 million for the terminal.

"It is not even completed yet," Yasay said. "It will take an additional $80 million to $100 million to complete its construction."

Yasay said the Lucio Tan firm was willing to assume the responsibility of paying Piatco as well as spending for the completion of the project. "I'm sure AEDC will have no problem funding this."

Yasay, a former head of the Securities and Exchange Commission, said the government could even unilaterally reduce its obligation to Piatco, significantly below the $175-million audited value because the contractor constructed the facility "in bad faith."

The Supreme Court struck down the build-operate-transfer contract between Piatco and the government in 2002 for being onerous and disadvantageous to the government.

Because of this, AEDC also wanted to stop the government from paying Piatco an initial amount of P3.3 billion as ordered by the court, as part of its initial payment to the contractor after the government took control of the facility.

Yasay said the Supreme Court's ruling that Piatco struck the deal in bad faith meant that "allowing it to profit from Terminal 3 instead of imposing upon it the stiffest sanctions permissible under the law is unconscionable."

He also warned that pushing ahead with the plan to pay Piatco the initial payment for just compensation would weaken the government's negotiating position in its arbitration cases in courts in the US and Singapore. It also exposed the Filipino taxpayers to additional claims from Piatco and its partners to as much as $1 billion, he claimed.

"Even if we pay the P3 billion, the government will not be able to use Terminal 3," he said, warning that his group was considering filing graft charges against state officials who would order the payment of the amount.

SSS chief barred from holding ...

From page B1

yesterday said in a phone interview she had yet to be notified of the ruling.

"If I'm not qualified based on their guidelines, that's okay. We will wait for official word from the BSP and act accordingly," she said.

Once notified, Dela Paz said the bank would study its course of action or whether it could submit a petition for reconsideration. In the event that this question on taking such a position could not be resolved, she said the vice chair, Teresita Sy-Coson, could fill up the chair's post.

TMEQ's board representative in EPCIBank, Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, sat briefly as EPCIBank chair after a three-way alliance with the state-owned pension funds Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System wrestled control of the bank from the Go family.

The SM group bought out the Gos last year and has since then become the single biggest voting block in EPCIBank with a 34-percent stake.

The group's Banco de Oro Universal Bank then offered to merge with EPCIbank through a share-swap, but this was opposed by the Romualdez-GSIS tandem. The proposal has lapsed and no new offer has so far been put on the table.

BOI OKs incentives for people's car assemblers

Retail price ceiling set at P350,000/unit

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS HAS APproved the granting of incentives to automotive assemblers that would go into the production of people's cars that would be sold for not more than P350,000 per unit.

Trade Undersecretary and BOI managing head Elmer C. Hernandez said the BOI management committee, in a meeting last week, had approved the amendment to the guidelines of the 2006 Investments Priorities Plan to pave the way for the inclusion of the assembly of people's cars in the list of projects qualified for incentives.

But unlike the people's cars of the past, the new people's car would be more of a utility vehicle for either cargoes or passengers.

Hernandez said the agency's policy was to support a people's car program that would provide opportunities for local manufacturers, as well as create new jobs in the sector and allied industries.

Under the amended guidelines, he said the manufacture or assembly of basic Philippine Utility Vehicles (PhUV) with value-added of at least 60 percent would qualify for registration with the BOI as a pioneering venture. This will enable proponents to avail themselves of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, including a six-year income tax holiday and duty-free importation of capital goods.

Hernandez said the amendment was consistent with the objective of the Motor Vehicle Development Program (MVDP) to develop the local vehicle assembly sector and a viable automotive parts manufacturing industry in the country.

He added that a company could avail itself of the IPP incentives provided that it was complying with Executive Order No. 156, which bans the importation of all types of used motor vehicles, parts and components

Also, Hernandez said the proposed PhUV should be developed in a "unique and distinct" way to differentiate it from other utility vehicles that MVDP participants were already producing.

Recently, a tripartite Philippine Auto Industry Development Working Group (PAID WG) was formed to review the past auto development programs of the government and analyze how a new one can be developed to spur sales of local products, especially those of vehicles manufactured from completely knocked-down kits.

According to participants of the MVDP, their proposed PhUV pertained to locally assembled brand-new utility vehicles that would be produced at the price of an imported used vehicle but with a high level of local content.

The firms said vehicle sales reports on the previous priced-based People's Car Program showed that only the Kia Pride survived until 2003.

They added that because of the failure of the People's Car Program, the number of local auto parts makers have whittled down to 173 from 256 during the industry's peak in 1996.

Most of the surviving parts makers—on which some 28,000 workers depend on—are currently operating at only 40-percent plant utilization.

LandBank loans to agri sector hit ₱16B in first half

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES SAID IT had extended some P16 billion in loans for agriculture production and processing, and infrastructure support projects in the farm sector projects in the first semester.

LandBank president Gilda E. Pico said the amount represented the state-owned bank's contribution to the pump-priming efforts of the national government.

Pico said that of the amount, P10.2 billion went to agricultural production while agro-processing projects got P3.8 billion in the first semester.

The loans were extended largely to small- and medium-scale enterprises and cooperatives, and channeled through rural banks and Quedan Rural Credit and Guarantee Corp. (Quedancor).

Among the projects financed by the LandBank loans were contract-growing ventures of farmers cooperatives that supply fresh pineapples to Dole Philippines Inc. and cavendish bananas to Uni Frutti Inc.

Also financed by the bank was the palm oil production venture of Agumil Philippines Inc. in Agusan del Sur and Agusan del Norte, a bank official said.

Agumil Philippines Inc., a joint venture between Filipino and Malaysian investors, is engaged in the planting and processing of palm oil in Agusan. It got some P100 million production loan from the bank. *Christine A. Gaylican*

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Meralco, Transco resume talks on sub-transmission assets

Deal seen to cost ₱700-₱900M

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER A TWO-YEAR LULL, MANILA ELECtric Co. has reopened discussions with National Transmission Corp. (Transco) for the acquisition of nearly P1 billion worth of the state firm's sub-transmission assets.

"Meralco has reaffirmed its interest in acquiring the sub-transmission assets. We have scheduled meetings with them (this week)," Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz said.

Meralco and Transco started discussions on the latter's sub-transmission assets two years ago but the talks did not progress.

Ortiz said Meralco recently approached Transco and sought the reopening of discussions about the assets.

"This can be an indication that Meralco is now in a better financial position than it was two or three years ago," he said.

In a separate interview, Transco manager for sub-transmission divestment Ernesto Daluz said the assets that Meralco was interested in would cost between P700 million and P900 million. These, he said, would be sold in two batches.

The first batch, he said, would be ready for disposal upon the signing of an agreement with Meralco.

The second batch, however, was not yet ready for disposal as there were some issues related to the assets that still had to be ironed out, including those involving rights of way, he said.

"The negotiations that we'll be having with them now will involve only the assets belonging to the first batch. We expect to close a deal on those assets within the year," he said. "We'll start discussing the second batch of assets when we iron out all the issues related to them. That will probably take place next year."

ORTIZ

Costs related to ironing out all related issues, he said, could jack up the cost of the sub-transmission assets in the second batch.

Meralco vice president and treasurer Rafael Andrada earlier said the distribution utility was in talks with the Asian Development Bank for fresh loans that could be used to finance, among others, the acquisition of Transco's sub-transmission assets.

Ortiz said Transco was open to working out a financing scheme with Meralco even if it had already started talks with a lender.

SM spends ₱5B for 3 new malls

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SM PRIME HOLDINGS INC., THE COUNtry's biggest mall operator, is spending about P5 billion for new malls that are scheduled to open next year, SM Prime executive vice-president Jeffrey Lim said.

The new SM malls are being constructed in in Taytay (Rizal province), Muntinlupa and Bacolod.

He said SM Bacolod was scheduled for opening in the first quarter of 2007.

These projects, Lim said, would be financed through a combination of borrowings and internally-generated cash.

For this year, SM Prime will open SM City Lipa in Batangas, which cost the company P900 million, on Sept. 22.

SM City Lipa will bring the company's total malls to 27 by the end of 2006.

SM Prime recently spent P350 million for its 26th mall, SM Supercenter Pasig, which opened last Saturday.

It also launched this year SM City Sta. Rosa, SM City Clark and SM Mall of Asia, its biggest mall to date.

Rental revenues from new malls and cinema ticket sales boosted SM Prime's net earnings in the first semester of the year by 9 percent to P2.6 billion from P2.4 billion in the same period last year. Total revenues jumped 17 percent in the first half to P6.09 billion, from P5.2 billion in the same semester last year.

RCBC to sell ₱3B worth of assets in Sept.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE YUCHENGCOS' RIZAL COMMERCIAL Banking Corp. plans to sell about P3 billion worth of real and other properties owned and acquired through a bidding this September.

RCBC president Francisco Magsajo Jr. said the bank would soon post a notice of bidding and the assets' floor prices. The auction will likely be held on the third week of September.

The bank tapped Ernest & Young as financial adviser for the asset sale.

RCBC is also planning to beef up capital by issuing preferred shares to new investors and offering hybrid instruments that will qualify as tier 1 or core capital.

Magsajo said the bank had appointed Citigroup to handle the bank's offering of up to $100 million worth of hybrid instruments to the offshore market by next month.

"For this year and next, we'll be able to comply with Basel 2 standards but we want more room. Our capital adequacy ratio under Basel 2 is about 15 percent right now. Without Basel 2, it is about 21 percent," Magsajo said.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas recently issued the guidelines for the implementation of the Basel 2 accord, which maintained the minimum CAR requirement at 10 percent but tightened the capital charges on actual credit exposure, market risk and operational risk.

Basel 2 revises Basel 1 to make regulatory capital requirements more risk-sensitive. The revised framework imposes specific capital charges on credit derivatives, securitization exposure, counter-party risk in the trading book as well as operational risks.

On operational risks, the BSP approved a uniform basic charge of 15 percent of gross income. However, banks that are able to disaggregate income by major business lines may use different rates depending on the business lines. Of all the changes in the revised framework, the operational risk capital requirement is expected to have the most significant impact on the banks' overall capital requirements, according to the BSP.

The new framework also imposes a capital charge on foreign currency-denominated credit exposure to the Philippine government or ROPs, which were previously given zero-risk weighting.

In the meantime, RCBC is awaiting approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange for its planned issuance of P1 billion worth of preferred shares.

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CLUB PUNTA FUEGO	400K	CAMP JOHN HAY	250K
COUNTRY CLUB@TAGAYTAY	330K	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	PLS CALL
EAGLERIDGE B	280K	CLUB FILIPINO	90K
EAGLERIDGE C	330K	EAGLERIDGE B	PLS CALL
FOREST HILLS B	170K	EAGLERIDGE C	300K
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	350K	MANILA GOLF CORP	11.5M
MAKATI SPORTS	180K	MANILA GOLF IND	11.0M
MANILA GOLF IND	PLS CALL	MANILA POLO CLUB	2.750M
MANILA POLO CLUB	3.0M	MANILA SOUTHWOODS A	300K
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A	330K	MIMOSA-IND	180K
MANILA SOUTHWOODS B	700K	MIMOSA C-3	550K
MANILA YACHT CLUB	350K	ORCHARD A	150K
ORCHARD B	350K	PUERTO AZUL A/B	40K
RIVIERA GOLF CLUB B	120K	PALMS COUNTRY CLUB	350K
ROCKWELL CLUB IND	230K	SPA & LODGE	450K
ROCKWELL CLUB CORP	400K	STA. ELENA A	1.150M
ROYALE TAGAYTAY CORP	150K	STA. ELENA B	1.4M
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	620K	VALLEY GOLF	180K
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Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,200,000	1,100,000
Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club	Please Call	-
Baguio Country Club	650,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	60,000	-
Camp John Hay	260,000	260,000
Canlubang	490,000	490,000
Capitol Hills	50,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,900,000	1,400,000
Celebrity Sports Club	100,000	90,000
Club Filipino	100,000	80,000
Eaglerdge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	-
Forest Hills "A"	100,000	-
Forest Hills "B"	Please Call	-
Forest Hills "C"	150,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	220,000	-
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,500,000
Manila Polo	Please Call	2,725,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	330,000	-
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	630,000
Manila Yacht Club	280,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	240,000	200,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	650,000	550,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	190,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200,000	160,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	350,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	350,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	135,000
Sherwood "B"	-	90,000
Spa & Lodge	550,000	500,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,200,000	1,100,000
Subic Bay Golf	200,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	320,000	290,000
Tagaytay Highlands	700,000	600,000
Tagaytay Midlands	680,000	-
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	150,000
Veray Golf	220,000	190,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	6,200,000

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CASE AGAINST NTC

Court favors Lopez telco

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CORP. (ICC), now Bayantel, a telecommunication company controlled by the Lopez family, won a precedent-setting decision from the Supreme Court which limits the powers of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to impose fees on telecommunications companies.

In a decision issued on July 27, the Supreme Court said the fees amounting to P1,190,750 imposed on ICC were not only excessive but against the "parity clause" enjoyed by other companies under R.A. 7925 or the Public Telecommunications Policy Act of 1995.

The statute provides that "any advantage, favor, privilege, exemption, or immunity granted under existing franchises, or may hereafter be granted, shall ipso facto become part of previously granted telecommunications franchises and shall be accorded immediately and unconditionally to the grantees of such franchises."

The court noted that a subsequent congressional franchise granted to the Domestic Satellite Corp. stated that in consideration of its franchise, Domsat should pay the government a franchise tax," which shall be in lieu of all taxes, assessments, charges, fees, or levies of any kind, nature, or description levied, established or collected by any municipal, provincial, or national authority."

The SC added that in view of the parity clause, ICC was entitled to the same benefit. Thus, ICC cannot be made to pay the subject fees because its payment of the franchise tax is "in lieu" of all other taxes and fees.

The 10-year-old case, which was handled by the Villaraza and Angangco Law Offices, stemmed from the application on April 4, 1995 of ICC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to install, operate and maintain an international telecommunications leased circuit service between the Philippines and other countries.

SMC to keep control of NatFoods

FOOD AND BEVERAGE GIANT SAN MIGUEL Corp. is keeping control of National Foods Ltd. as it continues to generate robust sales for the group, a high-ranking official said.

"National Foods is doing very well. We are not selling it. We are going to keep control of the company forever," San Miguel president Ramon Ang said.

The takeover of National Foods last year was SMC's biggest acquisition, followed later by the $420- million purchase of Singapore-based pineapple products canner Del Monte Pacific Ltd.

Through National Foods, SMC acquired the remaining 49 percent of Australian juice maker Berri Ltd. last year for AU$169 million, raising the food and beverage giant's stake in Berri to 100 percent.

In the first semester of the year, National Foods and Berri generated a combined sales revenue of AU$880 million, 7 percent more than the growth rate in 2005 of 4 percent.

National Foods also contributed operating income of AU$66.8 million in the first half to the San Miguel Group.

The company had earlier considered selling portion of its stake in National Foods to raise funds for the repayment of debts incurred to finance its aggressive expansion program. SMC sources said the sale of a 49-percent stake in National Foods could fetch AU$1.47 billion. They said at least three investors were interested in SMC's stake.

Sources estimated National Foods may be worth a total of $3 billion Australian dollars today.

To further boost its business, National Foods acquired Australian specialty cheese business Lactos Pty. Ltd. from French firm Bongrain International SAS. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 18, 2006)

NAME	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.7	9,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32.5	33.5	32.5	33	1,062,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53.5	53.5	53	53.5	1,753,000
China Banking Corp.	700	705	700	700	800
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.39	850,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	83	83	82.5	83	84,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38	38.5	37.5	38	413,000
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	2,300
Phil. Savings Bank	42	42	42	42	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17	17	17	17	2,800
Security Bank Corp.	48.5	48.5	48.5	48.5	133,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	45.5	45	45.5	3,200
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	439,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30	30.5	30	30.5	12,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1625	1625	1625	1625	300
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2030	2000	2030	4,780
Ivantage Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	2,540,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	43	43	43	43	29,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	42.5	42.5	42	42.5	516,100
Manila Electric Co. A	16.25	16.25	16	16.25	97,000
Manila Electric Co. B	25.5	25.5	25	25.5	110,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9	9.2	9	9.2	11,231,000
Petron Corp.	4.15	4.2	4.1	4.2	2,096,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	250,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	29,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	29,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34	34	33.5	34	219,100
Rfm Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.78	0.8	610,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.8	3.75	3.75	2,346,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	64.5	64	64.5	58,600
San Miguel Corp. B	74	74	72.5	73.5	57,600
Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	18.5	17.75	18.25	7,177,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	5,490,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	320,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	449,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.8	4.85	4.8	4.85	466,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.6	3.1	2.6	3.1	20,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	200,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	2,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.55	0.56	0.52	0.54	67,760,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.09	14,800,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	400,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	35,000,000
Ayala Corp.	420	422.5	417.5	420	149,890
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	280,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	4.95	5	80,000
Alo Net Holdings Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.032	0.032	39,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.84	1.84	266,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.27	0.32	0.26	0.32	85,900,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	13,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.94	0.98	0.94	0.97	520,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.1	200,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	9,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	992,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	4.25	4.25	4.2	4.2	310,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.65	2.65	640,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	130,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	5.9	6	5.9	6	651,000
Medco Holdings	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	640,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	120,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.016	0.014	0.014	132,700,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	6,920,000
Solid Group Inc	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	200,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.155	0.135	0.15	94,660,000
SM Investments Corp.	216	216	212	212	79,990
South China Resources Inc	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	100,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.14	0.145	0.135	0.135	16,290,000
Wellex Industries Inc	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	2,100,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13	13.25	13	13	5,980,500
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	60,000
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	6,234,000
Cityland Development Corp	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	26,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.33	0.38	0.33	0.37	10,400,000
Cebu Holdings Inc	2.18	2.26	2.18	2.24	622,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
Eib Realty Developers Inc	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	30,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	2,840,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.05	0.055	0.049	0.0525	36,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.42	1.38	1.42	3,511,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.135	0.145	0.13	0.145	9,620,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.145	0.15	0.135	0.15	1,390,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.48	2.48	2.4	2.4	150,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	23,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	170,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.64	21,254,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	1,590,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	11.75	12	11.75	12	812,700
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	1,100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.74	1,130,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8	7.8	7.8	3,453,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	80,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	1,000,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	17	17	17	17	4,500
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.1	239,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.3	1.32	1.28	1.3	4,219,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1020	1020	1015	1020	59,210
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.75	3.8	3.7	3.75	2,959,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1965	1985	1945	1980	74,350
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	13,090,000
Imperial Res.	0.023	0.023	0.019	0.019	257,600,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.0575	0.0525	0.0575	19,700,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	12,500,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	210,000
Philweb Corp.	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.03	143,800,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	111,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.75	15	14.75	14.75	317,700
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	90,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	1,652,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.52	1.56	1.5	1.54	4,224,000
Philippine Racing Club	3	3	3	3	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	230,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	9,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.08	2.22	2.08	2.22	756,000
Paxys Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.5	2,533,900
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.85	1,925,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	4.85	4.95	4.75	4.95	585,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	152,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.7	8.2	7.6	8.1	2,348,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.92	2	1.92	2	205,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	9,480,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	1,590,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.021	376,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	157,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	94,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.2	4.2	4.05	4.1	3,834,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.25	4.25	4.15	4.2	2,036,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	25.5	26	15,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.58	630,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	510,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	160,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	541,100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	139,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	465,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	326,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	12.75	13.25	12.75	13	216,700
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	104	104	104	104	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	180,000

CURRENCIES

August 18, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.779484	1.000000	51.1330
Japan	Yen	0.006720	0.008621	0.4408
United Kingdom	Pound	1.469249	1.884900	96.3806
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100250	0.128611	6.5763
Switzerland	Franc	0.632133	0.810964	41.4670
Canada	Dollar	0.694541	0.891027	45.5609
Singapore	Dollar	0.495319	0.635445	32.4922
Australia	Dollar	0.594753	0.763009	39.0149
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.067707	2.652661	135.6385
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.207851	0.266652	13.6347
Brunei	Dollar	0.493751	0.633433	32.3893
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020715	0.026575	1.3589
UAE	Dirham	0.212232	0.272272	13.9221
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.282900	65.5985
Argentina	Peso	0.253697	0.325468	16.6422
Brazil	Real	0.365955	0.469484	24.0061
Denmark	Kroner	0.134045	0.171966	8.7931
India	Rupee	0.016813	0.021570	1.1029
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212394	0.272480	13.9327
Mexico	New Peso	0.072282	0.092730	4.7416
New Zealand	Dollar	0.500439	0.642013	32.8281
Norway	Kroner	0.123826	0.158856	8.1228
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012919	0.016574	0.8475
South Africa	Rand	0.115104	0.147667	7.5507
Korea	Won	0.000811	0.001041	0.0532
Sweden	Kroner	0.109004	0.139841	7.1505
Syria	Pound	0.015016	0.019264	0.9850
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023900	0.030661	1.5678
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000363	0.000466	0.0238

Asia oil prices climb over fragile Lebanon truce

Iran's insistence in pursuing its uranium enrichment program adds to tensions, analysts say

SINGAPORE—OIL PRICES YESTERDAY climbed higher in Asia as an Israeli commando raid into Lebanon threatened to unravel a fragile truce and Iran's missile tests added to Middle East tensions, dealers said.

At 2:55 p.m. (0255 GMT), New York's main contract, light sweet crude for September delivery was at 71.65 dollars a barrel, up 51 cents from its close of $71.14 in US trades on Friday.

Brent North Sea crude for October delivery rose 54 cents to $72.84 a barrel.

Prices fell briefly below 70 dollars a barrel threshold on Friday, but failed to hold at those levels.

"The price tried to go below $70 on Friday but such declines were not sustained so there was a rebound," said Dariusz Kolwalczyk, an investment strategist with CFC Seymour Securities in Hong Kong.

"The rebound was exacerbated by a rise in the geopolitical risk premium after Israel conducted this raid in Lebanon to stop the resupply of arms to Hezbollah. So, this sort of increased tensions in the region and, as a result, we are moving higher."

Israeli commandos sneaked into eastern Lebanon on Saturday in a raid defense officials said was aimed at preventing alleged arms smuggling to the Hezbollah militia from Syria.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said the attack was a violation of a UN-brokered ceasefire that ended 34 days of fighting between Israeli forces and Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon.

As Lebanese and UN officials warned that such actions would jeopardize the shaky truce, Israel warned Sunday that it would keep up raids against Hezbollah to prevent the Shiite militia from getting weapons from abroad.

Israeli Defense Minister Amir Peretz said the Jewish state would examine mistakes that it made during the Lebanon war in preparation for the "next round" of conflict.

"We will examine the issues that have been pointed out as failures," Peretz said. "We will put everything on the table. Our duty is to prepare for the next round."

Oil market analyst Kowalczyk said the spotlight was also on how Iran will respond to a UN Security Council resolution urging the Islamic republic to halt its uranium enrichment program by the end of the month or face the possibility of sanctions.

Iran was due to give a response today (Tuesday) to a package of incentives offered by major world powers in return for a freeze in uranium enrichment, believed to mask efforts to build atomic weapons.

But Iran's insistence that a nuclear freeze was not on the agenda, and the test-firing of a short-range missile on Sunday during nationwide military exercises would not help ease tensions, Kowalczyk said.

Iran said the test-firing of the surface-to-surface missile, called Saegheh, was a demonstration of its readiness to respond to any threat.

The developments in Iran "highlights the fact that there is another confrontation in the making and, therefore, there is a higher geopolitical risk premium," Kowalczyk added.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Sunday warned in a key policy speech that an escalation of tensions in the Middle East would trigger a global recession due to sharply higher oil prices.

"If something goes wrong in the Middle East and there is a flare-up, oil prices will not stay at $70. It may go to $120 ... double to $150. I think it will have a very big impact on us." *AFP*

Asean expects foreign investment to go up after record surge in '05

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—MEMBERS OF the Association of Southeast Asia Nations expect foreign investments in the region to continue to grow after it surged 48 percent in 2005 to a new record.

But Asean officials yesterday added that the region still has to redouble efforts to catch up with China.

Foreign direct investment into the 10-member Asean rose to $38 billion last year, surpassing levels last seen before the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis, Malaysia's Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz said.

Foreign investment into Asean rose to $34 billion in 1997, but declined sharply after the Asian financial crisis threw regional economies into disarray.

"We have been in the doldrums," Rafidah said after chairing an Asean investment council meeting. "There have been so many uncertainties and internal problems for some countries. Economically, there is global dislocation, hike in petroleum prices and the dollar has weakened."

"In spite of that, we were able to see a positive growth in our FDI, and that is a good sign," she said. "We expect it to increase." *AP*

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Euro, yuan up on rate view; Asian shares fall

SINGAPORE—THE EURO YESTERDAY reached a record high against the yen and China's yuan climbed against the dollar as investors foresaw higher European and Chinese interest rates.

Spread betters in London expected European stock markets to open higher. But Asian shares fell amid renewed worries about economic growth, especially in the United States.

"It's inevitable that the impact from US interest rate expectations will fade, and the markets will start focusing on US economic indicators," said Lee Woo-hyun, an analyst at Kyobo Securities in Seoul, where the main index fell 0.7 percent.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei average dipped 0.85 percent, eroding last week's climb of more than 3 percent. MSCI's index of non-Japan Asian shares was down by a similar amount at 0615 GMT.

Gold rose, tracking firmer oil, and Japanese government bonds followed US Treasuries higher.

Last week Asian bourses had lapped up lower-than-expected US inflation figures, hoping that would mean the United States would avoid further growth-sapping rate rises. But on Friday, a report showed US consumer sentiment dropped more than expected in early August.

China's announcement on Friday of a rise in interest rates had affected Hong Kong's Hang Seng, which slid 1.8 percent.

Mainland China's benchmark index fell 0.2 percent.

Currencies around Asia edged up against the dollar after China raised its one-year lending rate by 0.27 point on Friday to 6.12 percent, increasing expectations the yuan would appreciate, which might mean other Asian countries would let their currencies rise.

The euro was up at $1.2872 and reached a record 148.93 yen on electronic trading platform EBS, beating Friday's previous peak of 148.90 yen.

The dollar was at 115.70 yen, little changed from late trade in New York on Friday, when it fell as low as 115.45 yen.

China's yuan rose against the dollar in response to the most aggressive monetary tightening since the authorities stepped up efforts to cool the economy in April.

Dealers said the euro remained the currency of choice due to expectations the European Central Bank would keep raising rates after bumping them up to 3 percent earlier this month, while the Fed is seen keeping rates at 5.25 percent in September.

The yen is out of favor as the Bank of Japan has stressed it would take its time raising rates after lifting them to 0.25 percent last month in its first rise in six years.

The yuan was at 7.9670 against the dollar compared with Friday's close of 7.9745.

The Chinese currency, which was depegged from the dollar in July 2005, did not reach its post-depegging high of 7.9650.

Gold jumped to $619.90 an ounce from $612.20 in New York.

US stocks closed higher on Friday. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.4 percent and the Nasdaq Composite Index climbed 0.3 percent. *Reuters*

Don't fret over yuan rise, says Chinese economist

BEIJING—CHINA SHOULD BE LESS worried about the consequences of letting the yuan rise further because the country's robust economic growth will help cushion export-related job losses, an influential economist said in remarks published yesterday.

In an article published in the official People's Daily, Yu Yongding, head of the Institute of World Economics and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said China should let market forces play a bigger role in setting the yuan's value.

"Many people are very concerned about the impact on employment from the yuan's appreciation and any declines in the country's trade surplus," said Yu, who sat on the central bank's monetary policy advisory committee until earlier this month.

"The export sector could suffer a big blow from the yuan's appreciation and some enterprises operating on low profit margins could go bankrupt," Yu said. "But this is the adjustment we want to see, and such sectoral job losses should be easily resolved as the economy as a whole is growing strongly."

The authorities have let the yuan rise a further 1.76 percent since it was revalued by 2.1 percent to 8.11 per dollar on July 21, 2005, when a managed float replaced a decade-old dollar peg. *Reuters*

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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2. Value Addition
   - Building flexibility and quick response to meet varying demands
   - Providing customer convenience as a source of value
3. Value Creation and Promotion in Food Enterprises
   - Supply chain as a source of value creation
   - Reinventing the Services Delivery System: The Management of Service Operations
4. Learning Applications (Guided Workshop Outputs)
   - Enhancing Competitiveness
   - Sustaining Productivity Increases

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Prof. Francisco P. Bernardo, Jr. is a core faculty and guru of the AIM Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE). His areas of specialization are operations management and system analysis. He also teaches management of technology for development.
Prof. Bernardo has worked with companies engaged in manufacturing, construction, insurance, banking and agriculture, as well as with government agencies and educational institutions.

Prof. Rene T. Domingo is a teacher, writer, and management consultant. He is the Sime Darby Professor of Manufacturing and the program director of AIM's Advanced Manufacturing Management Course. Schooled and trained in Japan, he has written quality and service management and world-class manufacturing practices. He trains and consults for a number of Asian companies in the field of total quality management, business process engineering, lean manufacturing and six sigma.

For inquiries and reservation call: Ms. Luvy Villanueva / Ms. Liza Ayalde
Tel +632 892-4011 to 25 ext. 187, 252; Telefax +632 813-3302
Email: ace@aim.edu; lvillanueva@aim.edu; mayalde@aim.edu

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Eugenio Lopez Foundation Building, Joseph R. McMicking Campus
123 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 1260 Philippines

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People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

GSK makes pioneer antibiotic even more relevant today

ANTIBIOTICS ARE ONE OF THE MOST important medicines in modern medical history. Human life has greatly improved both in length and quality due to these life-saving medicines. A landmark period in the development of antibiotics was the discovery of amoxicillin, one of the most popular and dependable antibiotics that had become known to man ever since.

This popular drug was developed in 1972 by Beecham Research Laboratories – now part of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). It has since gained widespread use because of its efficacy, versatility in battling a wide range of common infections, and excellent safety profile.

Amoxicillin is also generally preferred in dental or surgical prophylaxis, and in the treatment of other general infections of the ears, nose, throat, urinary tract, and skin.

After 34 years of clinical use and despite the introductions of newer antibiotics, amoxicillin continues to be effective in treating acute upper respiratory tract infections such as bronchitis, acute otitis media, sinusitis and tonsilitis. Renowned doctor groups, both in the Philippines and abroad, continue to recommend it as first-line treatment for various diseases. The Philippine Society of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, for instance, recommend it for low-risk community acquired pneumonia while the American Association of Family Physicians and American Association of Pediatrics recommend it as first-line treatment for acute uncomplicated bacterial sinusitis, respectively.

The original amoxicillin introduced by Beecham Research Laboratories continues to bring life-changing benefits to countless patients worldwide through GSK. And in the Philippines, GSK has made this popular drug more accessible by more Filipinos through the ValueHealth program. Through this program, the original amoxicillin brand is now more affordable with price reduction to as much as 34 percent.

Aside from amoxicillin, ValueHealth also readily makes available other long-trusted, original branded and high-quality medicines for common ailments such as bacterial infection, hyperacidity and gout.

Amoxicillin is a prescription drug and should only be taken upon the advice of your doctor.

PRC ACCREDITS UNILAB PHARMACY LEARNING MODULE

The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) has accredited Unilab's Pharmacy Learning Modules on 'Optimum Health Outcomes through Medication Safety', a four-track learning program developed to address the rising incidence of medication mistakes in the country. The modules will educate pharmacists on proper medication and provide them with tools to achieve medication safety. The Unilab Medical Education and Development (Umed) group launched the modules at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel last Aug. 11. Umed executive director Edgardo Ortiz, M.D. (5th from left) receives the Accreditation Certificate from the PRC Board of Pharmacy (BOP) chairperson Catalina Sanchez (4th from left). Flanking them are (from left): PRC Standards and Inspection Division Chief Dora Legita, BOP members Jennifer Flores and Reynaldo Umali, UP College of Pharmacy dean Yolanda Robles, Muntinlupa-Paranaque-Las Piñas Pharmacists Association president Maricel Briones, and Unilab medical affairs vice president Alex Tuazon, M.D.

CDO RAFFLE DRAW

Bureau of Food and Drugs officer Joel Ubalde (center) reads out the name of the grand prize winner in the recently-concluded 31st anniversary promo of CDO-Foodsphere Inc. On hand to witness the raffle draw held last week in Valenzuela City were company officials (from left) Akel Galangan, regional sales manager for special accounts, Jonathan Bendicion, senior marketing manager, Marites Escarcha, assistant general manager and Bong Cendana, national sales manager. CDO-Foodsphere is one of the country's biggest meat processors.

British School Manila gains outstanding IB exam results

THE BRITISH SCHOOL MANILA has just received its International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma results and they are hugely impressive.

The IB qualification is widely recognized as the most demanding and rigorous pre-university course in the world. Begun in 1968 and taught in around 1800 schools worldwide, the pass score for an IB Diploma is 24 out of a possible 45 points. This year 23000 students worldwide took the full Diploma and 79 percent passed. However, the pass rate at The British School was an incredible 93 percent. The world average points score for each candidate was 29, at the British School Manila it was 36. The highest score at the school was 42 which would put that candidate in the top 2 percent of all those taking the IB exams.

These outstanding results make these students highly sought after by some of the top universities from around the world. Between them they have received offers of places from universities such as Yale, Stanford, John Hopkins, UPenn, University of Chicago, all in USA; Oxford University, London School of Economics, Durham University, Imperial College, London, Nottingham University and the School of Oriental and African Studies, all in the UK; Monash University and the University of Melbourne, Australia, the University of Otago in New Zealand as well as Ateneo and University of Asia Pacific in the Philippines.

In addition, five of the students have been offered substantial scholarships to study in the USA at Lehigh University and Randolph-Macon Woman's College, in Hong Kong at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and in Canada at University of Toronto, MacGill University and the University of British Colombia.

The British School Manila is located on a modern, purpose built campus in Fort Bonifacio and caters for students of all nationalities from age 3-18. Further information about the school is available from the admissions department on admissions@britishschoolmanila.org, or from the website at www.britishschoolmanila.org.

WHIRLPOOL SUPPORTS BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS

Whirlpool recently conducted the 'Laundry Business Made Easy' seminar aimed at helping budding entrepreneurs start up their own laundry business by giving them valuable insights in the laundry business industry. Participants were given tips on how to efficiently manage their own laundry business through a series of lectures conducted by authorities on laundry business operations. Photo shows laundry chemicals expert Herman Orilla of Grist Chem imparting his knowledge, gathered from years of experience, to the participants so they could have a better understanding of the laundry business industry.

'06 ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Lourdes 'Ching' Santos Bognot is currently the executive secretary to the president and chief executive officer of Novartis Healthcare Philippines Inc, German Peruyero. She has been with Novartis for the past 12 years having started as secretary to the training and education director and was later promoted as secretary to the HRD director. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communication from the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. Ching is definitely a homebody and devotes her time to her 12-year old son and her husband. When asked to comment after winning the APY award, Ching said 'The search has ended but my job with PAS is only beginning.'

MERCK, PNRC TIE-UP

Merck Inc, maker of Sangobian capsule, an iron supplement for anemia, teams up with the Philippine National Red Cross for its 'Gisingin ang Dugo!' Call Centers Program. The campaign aims to generate awareness and disseminate information on anemia among call center agents. Shown in photo are (from left) Sangoblan brand manager Viktor Oliveros, Dr. Monina Nalupta, Dr. Michael Marquez and Dr. Beverly Rambayon of PNRC, and Jonas Joven of Merck.

BEACH HUT INVADES BALI

Beach Hut, the clear sunblock spray with UV-A and UV-B protection produced by Naturalle Labs is now distributed in Bali by Cirkle K, a major convenience store in Indonesia. It is also now sold in various specialty stores in the Bali beach front. Bali, known as Asia's tropical beach paradise, is visited by millions of sunbathers a year from all over the world. Adults and children alike need a sunblock product to protect them from the ill-effects of too much sun. Beach Hut evangelists in photos) are doing a great job in Bali. Beach Hut is going for the gold in key beach cities in Asia.

OFF TO US FOR GRADUATE TRAINING IN SURGERY

Dr. Sophia L. Subong, recently left for Drexel University College Of Medicine at Hahnemann University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA to join its Surgery Department under its Residency Program. Dr. Subong, a UP B.S. Psychology '99 (Cum Laude) and UP-PGH MD '04 graduate (Outstanding Intern for Surgery and Psychology Awardee), passed the PRC doctor's licensure exams that same year, considered one of the toughest. She is the youngest of four daughters (her other sisters are UP and Ateneo graduates) of lawyer Rogelio (a practicing lawyer) and Mrs Nieva (pre-school owner/directress of NS Montessori Center Inc in BFQC), also UP graduates.

The benefits of Visa Debit Cards

PEOPLE SAY CASH IS KING. HOWever, with the Visa Debit Card, you can enjoy fast, easy, and convenient cashless shopping without having to worry if you have enough cash on hand. Visa Debit Cards can be used directly at the point of sale wherever Visa cards are accepted. The purchase amount is debited instantly to the cardholder's bank account. Built around a very simple yet compelling message - Who needs cash when you have a Visa Debit Card? - Visa recently launched an advertising campaign aiming to encourage cardholders to maximize the benefits provided by Visa Debit Cards. At the recent launch of the new TVC, media and celebrity participants were able to experience first-hand how easy and convenient using a Visa Debit Card is. In an exciting treasure hunt, participants raced around the Robinsons Galleria mall to purchase items such as vitamins, milk, baby bottles, diapers and shirts for the event's beneficiary, the Sta. Rita Orphanage. Armed with a Visa Debit Card and a shopping list, they breezed through the different establishments. "The treasure hunt demonstrated how easy it is to use the debit card," shared Iya Yatoko. "You get to see how convenient it is to buy something with a debit card," TV host Ria Trillo added. "All you do is swipe and you can get out of there." During the event, Visa also launched the Visa Sweet Swipe promotion in partnership with Robinsons and Masterfoods. During the promotion period all Visa cardholders can redeem a free pack of M&M's chocolates for a P500 minimum purchase at any Robinson's Department Store or Supermarket. Visa Debit Cards are currently being issued by four banks in the country, with more expected to follow soon. With all the convenience and added protection the card has to offer, it's no wonder why so many people are starting to prefer it over cash.

Toto's 'Namaste': Partying in Nirvana

IT WAS A NIGHT OF SHEER EXOtic celebration as Toto, the brand synonymous to world-class and technologically-pioneering bathroom fixtures, recently threw an impressive customers' bash at the Prince of Jaipur at The Fort.

The Indian-themed party had all the elements of a class Bollywood act - VIPs in the building industry, unique and lavish entertainment, with sumptuous food thrown in for good measure. Aptly titled "Namaste", the event gathered Toto's valued clients from all over the country such as Toto's exclusive distributors, architects, engineers, and interior designers.

Toto president Minoru Noomo served as a gracious host, receiving all the guests warmly together with Toto's, Ina Tantuico and Gary Bogarin. The guests, all garbed in their fabulous Indie-chic attires, were ushered to the buffet table which featured authentic Indian dishes. A belly-dancing instructional set the night's exotic mood, with female guests gamely participating on the floor.

The program, hosted by model May Viernes and radio DJ/model Harry Corro, also honored Toto's hardworking distributors for the past year. Awards were handed out by Noomo and Arnel Santiago to the Top 30 Distributors, Top 10 Key Players, and Top 10 Sales Front Runners. Toto also gave out Golden Goose Awards to the outstanding sales performers. Top-of-the-line and high-end Toto products were raffled off to lucky guests.

Highlight of the evening was the launching of Toto's highly-anticipated 2006 product offerings - the Dorian and the Nexus lines. The sleek and elegant Dorian water closet features Power Gravity Technology, smartly combining powerful, efficient flushing with low water consumption rate. The Nexus Bath Collection offers a fusion of stylish design and high-performance technology. Simply put, it transforms the bath space into a personal spa, providing an experience that can only be described as pure heaven.

Toto office is at 8/F Ace Bldg. 101-103 Thailand St. cor. dela Rosa St. Legaspi Village Makati, with tel. no. 757-8686, fax 751-8693, 750-7897.

ProductFILES

Lose weight with C-lium Fibre

ADD A REGULAR DAILY INTAKE OF C-Lium Fibre to your diet or weight-loss regimen to get your desired results - a fit body for a healthy you. That's because C-Lium Fibre helps you address the core of the problem. Acknowledged as the country's leading all-natural and organic health fiber supplement, C-Lium Fibre is a natural fat absorber. It naturally absorbs fat from the food you eat and eliminates fat before it becomes stored fat or "bilbil". Thus, it ably assists in reducing weight as it helps clean your digestive system which is another main benefit of fiber. C-Lium Fibre is available in Mercury Drug, Watsons outlets and other drugstores nationwide. For inquiries, call Garsworth Marketing at 524-6549, 524-8146 or text 0916-7410346.

Ovuplus One-step Ovulation Test Kit

THE OVUPLUS ONE-STEP OVULATION TEST KIT helps women detect when they are most fertile and most likely to become pregnant. A woman has a short fertile period during her menstrual cycle. On average, this is just 7 days before ovulation (when egg is released from the woman's ovary), the day of ovulation, and the day after. After ovulation, chances of conception decreases quickly, as the egg has a life span of only 24 hours. Just before ovulation, women experience a brief surge of Luteneizing Hormone (LH). This LH increase triggers ovulation. The Ovuplus One-step Ovulation Test Kit helps pinpoint this surge. If used correctly, Ovuplus can be a very valuable tool in helping women to achieve pregnancy.

Christine Bersola-Babao for Robby Rabbit

CHRISTINE BERSOLA-BABAO HAS SIGNED UP AS endorser of Robby Rabbit, a Filipino-created cartoon character that has spawned a line of school bags, accessories, children's apparel etc. As endorser, Christine will appear in Robby Rabbit print ads, fashion shows and other special events. Robby Rabbit products are available at all leading department stores nationwide and Characters Unlimited branches at Tutuban Centermall, Manila; Festival Supermall, Alabang; Riverbanks Mall, Marikina; Magic Star Mall, Tarlac and the wholesale outlet at #545 Juan Luna St., Binondo Manila. For details call 367-9890 or 0917-88ROBBY (76229).

Teazz: The green tea with a fizz

EXPECT COOLER STUFF FROM UNIVERSAL ROBIna Corp (URC) as it introduces yet another trailblazer in beverage: Teazz, the green tea with a fizz. This latest exciting refreshment is the first of its kind in the local market. Dubbed the "good cola," Teazz combines the refreshing sparkle of sodas with healthy green tea. After all, green tea has catechins, which are anti-oxidants that can kill cancer cells without harming healthy tissues. Teazz is available in Cola Lite, Lemon and Raspberry flavors, in selected supermarkets and groceries.

Why speaking English is a must

TOP US DIPLOMAT IN THE PHILIPpines Joseph Mussomeli once advised in a forum that in order for the country to strengthen its resources and create more opportunities for young people, two things must be done. First, there should be more investment on education. And second, our English speaking skills must be improved. He admitted that the Philippines just sits on "an underutilized resource" - the English language. He observed that when he last lived in the Philippines 20 years ago, English was more pervasive and far better spoken than today.

True enough, figures showed that our expenditures on education per student had not kept up with our neighboring Asian countries. The envoy, however, said that the national government should not bear the sole burden of financing public education. He added that parents, students, teachers, and employers share a vested interest in promoting quality education and improving English skills.

But even before all these glaring facts were focused on, Speechpower has been around providing assistance where the need for English proficiency is the greatest. Back up with 34 years as the country's top trainer in communication, Speechpower never wavers in its vision of honing English proficient Filipinos. It continues to commit in creating a positive impact in the lives of modern Filipinos. It knows exactly why speaking English is a must.

From its original one course, Speechpower has successfully developed a curriculum program with three major categories: aptitude in oral, written, and reading comprehension. Under each category, specialized programs have been designed with strict classification of participants depending on the level of needs from pre-school up to professional levels, from conversation practice to fluency, intensive pronunciation, vocabulary enrichment, grammar review, speed reading and comprehension, public speaking and leadership training, journalistic, creative, business, and technical writing, effective broadcasting, and power presentations. Special arrangements on IELTS, TSE, TOEFL, and TOEIC review are also available.

This August-September-October term, discover the power of speech. Be an English proficient Filipino. Enroll with the leader. Speechpower is strategically located at Speechpower-Joshua Building, 932 Aurora Boulevard, near corner 20th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City (911-0832 to 34); 4/F Dona Amparo Building, Espana corner Cataluna Streets, Sampaloc, Manila (735-7256, 735-7312, 735-7262); 3/F Esther Building, 1945 Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila (521-3601, 525-5310), and 2116 Buendia corner Taft Avenues, Pasay City (833-2921, 833-2836).

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
PRESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT STAFF
MALACAÑANG

The Presidential Management Staff (PMS), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder projects:

Name of Project	PROCUREMENT OF PMS JANITORIAL SERVICES
Location	PMS Building, Arlegui St., San Miguel, Manila
Brief Description	The prospective bidders shall bid and provide housekeeping / janitorial services of the 12-storey PMS Building including its Penthouse and roof deck.
Approved Budget for the contract	The proposed contract has an approved budget of Two Million Two Hundred Thousand Pesos, Philippine Currency (PhP 2,200,000.00), to be charged against the 2006 budget of PMS.
Contract Duration	One (1) year
Delivery Period	01 December 2006

Name of Project	PROCUREMENT OF PMS PHOTOCOPYING SERVICES
Location	PMS Building, Arlegui St., San Miguel, Manila
Brief Description	The prospective bidders shall bid and provide the PMS with its photocopying requirements
Approved Budget for the contract	The proposed contract has an approved budget of Six Hundred Thousand Pesos, Philippine Currency, (PhP 600,000.00), to be charged against the 2006 budget of PMS.
Contract Duration	One (1) year
Delivery Period	01 December 2006

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution thereof. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Instruction to Bidders. The Eligibility Check/Screening, as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids, shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedules of activities are listed, as follows.

ACTIVITY	SCHEDULE	TIME	VENUE
JANITORIAL SERVICES			
Issuance of Bid Documents	22 Aug. – 05 Oct. 2006		PMS Legal Office
Pre-Bid Conference	21 September 2006	2:00 PM	8/f Operations Rm.
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	05 October 2006	1:00 PM	8/f Operations Rm.
Bid Opening	05 October 2006	Immediately after the checking of the eligibility requirements	8/f Operations Rm.
PHOTOCOPYING SERVICES			
Issuance of Bid Documents	22 Aug. – 05 Oct. 2006		PMS Legal Office
Pre-Bid Conference	22 September 2006	2:00 PM	8/f Operations Rm.
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	06 October 2006	1:00 PM	8/f Operations Rm.
Bid Opening	06 October 2006	Immediately after the checking of the eligibility requirements	8/f Opeations Rm.

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos, Philippine currency (PhP 1,000.00) for the procurement of janitorial services and Five Hundred Pesos, Philippine currency (Php 500.00) for the procurement photocopying services to the PMS Cashier.

Only bids of eligible bidders shall be opened in the presence of the bidders or their duly authorized representatives, as evidenced by the Special Power of Attorney or Board Resolution. The operating of bids shall be done right after the checking of the eligibility requirements.

The PMS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any minor defects therein, to annul the bidding process, to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and to accept only the offer that is most advantageous to the government.

The PMS assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bid.

(Sgd.) ASST. SEC. ELIZABETH M. GONZALES
PMS-BAC Chairperson

(PDI – August 22 & 29, 2006)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on September 6, 2006, 2:00 p.m., 12th Floor, Suite 5, Executive Lounge of the DBP Head Office, Sen.Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on **CASH BASIS:**

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (sq.m.)	LOCATION	Minimum Bid
REAL ESTATE				
BULACAN				
AM-ED-137	House and lot (TCT T-100505)	370	Villarica Homes, Lolomboy, Bocaue	P 930,120.00
CAVITE				
PF-GT-01	House and lot (TCT T-1143687)	77	522 Petal St., Camella Homes, Nueva Subd., Bayang Luma, Imus	P 419,400.00
GENERAL SANTOS				
PF-GT-02	2 adjoining vacant residential lots (TCT Nos. T-78605, T-78606)	744	Lots 1 & 2 Blk. 3 Falgui Subd., Brgy. Lagao, GSC	P 668,800.00
KIDAPAWAN				
PF-GT-03	House and lot (TCT T-78472)	518	Robles Subd., Sudapin	P 504,400.00
PUERTO PRINCESA				
PF-GT-04	House and lot (TCT T-130858)	248	Lot 13 Blk 4 Avenida Central & Avenida Principal, Alta Homes Subd., San Jose	P 505,600.00
RIZAL				
PF-GT-05	Vacant residential lot (TCT No. 633529)	128	Lot 22 Blk 23 Pomelo St., Greenwoods Executive Vill. Ph. 6, San Juan, Cainta	P 658,000.00
(CHATTELS - Sale on "as is where is basis")				
PF-GT-06	One (1) unit Toyota Revo 2002, GLX, w/ plate no. XFW 275		DBP Depot, Doña Severina Compound, Parañaque City	P 425,000.00
CWB-01	10 passenger jeepney units		La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	P 375,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2158/2159 for Code starting with AM, 815-1608 or 818-9511 local 2715 for PFGT and 920-49-09 for CWB.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – August 21 & 22, 2006)

Pre-school emphasizes things of the spirit

A PRE-SCHOOL EXISTS NOT JUST TO hone a child's academic and social skills. It should also sharpen his spirituality, and that of the most important people around him, his parents and yaya.

This, Nina Lopez, owner of Creative Beginners, a pre-school for kids aged 1.6 to six years old along Greenmeadows, Quezon City, believes in. That's why she has included a spiritual program for her student's parents and their yayas in the yearly activity lineup. For parents, it's a romantic weekend retreat out-of-town to strengthen their marriage. Moms also join weekly Bible study sessions for two-and-a-half hours.

Yayas undergo a quarterly spiritual seminar in the school's sprawling grounds.

The results are encouraging thus far. Joanne Gonzaga, whose son studied in the school for a year, says, "Timing of the spiritual seminar couldn't have been more perfect. My mom just passed away and I was devastated. The grief was still fresh. The seminar taught me the power of prayers. It opened up my spiritual life". Even now that her son has transferred to a big school, Joanne's spiritual growth goes on. She attends prayer meetings with Nina, goes to confession regularly and consults the Bible out of habit. Her relationship with her son's yaya, who also took the spiritual seminar, grew by leaps and bounds. The yaya appreciated how Joanne allowed her to share her experiences with fellow nannies and learn from them.

Hennabeth Basi So also swears by Creative Beginner's Bible Studies for moms like her.

"Before, I didn't know how to pray. I prayed only when I need something. Now I pray just to thank God for everyday blessings I thank him for my family's safety and good health," she says. Today, she says life has become more peaceful. Her son knows all the saints because he goes to church everyday with her. From someone who stuttered now and then, he has become an articulate speaker.

Creative Beginner's spiritual seminars are supervised by the school's chaplain, Fr. Daniel Polzer. For details, call 635-7374 or 637-7928. You may also call or text 0917-5251009 or 0917-8991009.

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF BAIS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Bais invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the hereunder requirements for use/various INFRA PROJECT of Bais City:

		ITEM	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)
1)	1 unit	BULLDOZER, Crawler type; Model D85; Blade Type-Angle dozer; Operating Weight-21,000 Kg; Drive Type-Power shift; Rear Attachment-Multi-shank ripper; Engine-6 cylinder Diesel feed; Rated Output-180 HP; Japan Surplus, reconditioned with warranty; new paint and batteries.	P 2,800,000.00
2)	1 unit	WHEEL LOADER. Bucket Capacity-2.3 cu.m.; Operating weight-12,000 Kg.; Transmission System-Full Power shift; Engine-6 cylinder Diesel feed; Rated Output-150 HP; Tire Size-20.5 x 25; Japan Surplus, reconditioned with warranty; Brand new Tires (preferably Philippine made); New paint and batteries.	2,000,000.00
3)	2 units	HYDRAULIC EXCAVATOR, Crawler-Backhoe Type with Offsetting boom; Operating Weight-5000 Kg.; Bucket Capacity Range – 0.055 to 0.22 cu.m.; Engine-3 cylinder Diesel feed; Rated Output-38.0 Hp; Japan surplus, reconditioned with warranty. New paint and batteries.	1,600,000.00
4)	1 unit	10-WHEELER CARGO DUMPTRUCK, left-handed drive, double differential, 8 cylinder diesel engine driven, brand new tires including spare (preferably Philippine made), new paint and batteries; with hydraulic jack, tire wrench and early warning device; Japan surplus, reconditioned with warranty and 1-year FREE insurance and registration in the name of the City of Bais.	1,000,000.00
5)	1 unit	10-WHEELER CARGO TRUCK – with Hydraulic Boom; Lifting capacity – 2,900 Kg., Left-hand drive, diesel engine Driven, double differential w/front drive, brand new Tires including spare (pref. Phil. Made), new paint and Batteries; w/ hydraulic jack, tire wrench and early warning Device; Japan surplus, reconditioned with warranty and 1-Year FREE insurance and registration in the name of the City of Bais.	800,000.00
6)	1 unit	6-WHEELER MANLIFTER TRUCK, Boom Extension-60 ft., Bucket capacity-200 Kg., 6-cylinder diesel engine driven, left hand drive, single differential, brand new tires including spare (preferably Philippine made), new paint and batteries; with hydraulic jack, tire wrench and early warning device; Japan surplus, reconditioned with warranty and 1-year FREE insurance and registration in the name of the City of Bais.	700,000.00
7)	1 unit	ROCK BREAKER, Adaptable to Komatsu PC200 Backhoe, good surplus, A-1 condition, complete with acessories	400,000.00
		TOTAL	P 9,500,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

In order to qualify, bidders should conform to the eligibility criteria as prescribed under Sec. 23.11 of the IRR-A of R.A. 9184.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184. As such non-submission of the required documents will result in the disqualification of the bidder.

All other particulars relative to the procurement process shall be govern by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Pre-bid conference will be conducted at the Office of the City Mayor, this city, on **August 25, 2006** at **1:30 p.m.**

Bid documents can be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee equivalent to the total amount of the ABC of the items in which interested bidders intend to bid, in accordance with the following rates:

Below P50,000.00	– 0.5% but not less than P100.00
P50,000.00 but not more than P100,000.00	– 0.45% but not less than P250.00
P100,001.00 but not more than P200,000.00	– 0.4% but not less than P450.00
P200,001.00 – P350,000.00	– 0.35% but not less than P800.00
P350,001.00 – P500,000.00	– 0.3% but not less than P1,225.00
P500,001.00 – P1,000,000.00	– 0.2% but not less than P1,500.00
P1,000,001.00 and above	– 0.1% but not less than P2,000.00 and not more than P10,000.00

Bid documents can be obtained starting **August 18, 2006** at the BAC Secretariat c/o Office of the City Mayor or Office of the City General Services, this city, Tel. Nos. (035) 402-3182, or 402-8115, anytime during office hours; and can also be inquired for further information or particulars.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility, technical, and financial documents each in separate sealed envelopes duly marked as such in the bid box at the Conference Room at the Office of the City Mayor on **September 6, 2006** at **1:30 p.m.** at which place, date and time said envelopes shall be opened in the presence of the members of the BAC, the attending bidders, the observers, or their duly authorized representative. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The City Government of Bais reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) CARMELINO L. MORALES
(City General Services Officer)
BAC Chairman

(PDI–August 17 & 22, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar Street, Zamboanga City

SECTION I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Zamboanga City Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee I (BAC I), invites Suppliers/ Manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

PR NO.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT ABC	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF ISSUANCE OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF PRE-BID CONFERENCE	DATE OF SUBMISSION/ OPENING OF BIDS
9156	Water Meters 1/2" Ø, Water Meter 2" Ø WT Model, Water Meter 3" Ø WT Model for New Tapping & Reconnection	P 1,090,000.00	P 1,000.00	August 21 to 25, 2006	August 24, 2006 at 2:00 PM @ 2nd Flr., ZCWD Bldg., Pilar St., ZC	September 5, 2006 @ 2nd Flr., ZCWD Bldg., Pilar St., ZC
9124	PVC Pipes & Bends for the Maasin Distribution Line Project	P 382,939.00	P 500.00	August 21 to 25, 2006	August 24, 2006 at 2:00 PM @ 2nd Flr., ZCWD Bldg., Pilar St., ZC	September 5, 2006 @ 2nd Flr., ZCWD Bldg., Pilar St., ZC
9126	CI Fittings for Maasin Distribution Line Project	P 107,200.00	P 500.00	August 21 to 25, 2006	August 24, 2006 at 2:00 PM @ 2nd Flr., ZCWD Bldg., Pilar St., ZC	September 5, 2006 @ 2nd Flr., ZCWD Bldg., Pilar St., ZC
9135	Ink & Ribbon Cartridges for Fourth (4th) Quarterly Stock	P 412,574.34	P 500.00	August 28 to September 1, 2006	September 5, 2006 at 2:00 PM @ 2nd Flr., ZCWD Bldg., Pilar St., ZC	September 19, 2006 @ 2nd Flr., ZCWD Bldg., Pilar St., ZC

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules & Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process of the Eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall be advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall be then awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

All Bids must be accompanied by a *Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's and Manager's Check in the amount of One Percent (1%) of the Approved Budget Cost (ABC) for each Purchase Requisition (PR).* Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be at the 2nd Floor, ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT Main Office Building, Pilar St , Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time or prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Mr. Noel M. Kawaguchi
Pilar St., Zamboanga City 7000
Telephone No. (062) 991-1556 • Email:
Fax: (062) 991-2799

(Sgd.) ARNULFO A. ALFONSO
BAC I Chairman

(PDI – August 22, 2006)

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OBITUARY

FR. JOSE C. BLANCO, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Saturday, 19 August 2006

Wake: Initially at Xavier House, 2307 Pedro Gil St., Sta. Ana, Manila; on Monday morning the body will be brought to the Oratory of St. Ignatius, Loyola House of Studies, Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, Q.C. Mass will be celebrated every evening at 8:00 p.m.

Funeral Mass: at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 23 August in the Oratory of St. Ignatius, Loyola House of Studies

Interment: Sacred Heart Novitiate Cemetery, Novaliches, Q.C., immediately after the Funeral Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

BUSINESS

Consolidated 'Pera' bill clears Senate panel's scrutiny

RELATED LEGISLATIVE BILLS that will lead to the creation of the Personal Equity and Retirement Account (Pera) have hurdled committee-level deliberations at the Senate.

The proposed measures have also been consolidated into one substitute bill, which is ready for sponsorship and plenary deliberations.

Now labeled Senate Bill No. 2233, the proposed law is meant to help people save more money for their retirement years by providing them vital tax breaks.

The Pera bills had earlier been referred to the Senate committee on banks, financial institutions and currencies under Sen. Edgardo Angara.

Proponents of the bill also expect Pera to play an important role in developing the local capital market, which is considered one of the smallest in Asia.

Angara's committee noted that, as of 2004, the country offered the smallest number of listed stocks among nine selected Asian stock exchanges.

"This is a step in the right direction towards developing the local capital market," said Francis Lim, president of the Philippine Stock Exchange, and one of those who helped craft the Pera bill.

"I hope the House will come out with the companion bill so that this long-awaited legislation will become a reality soon."

Under the proposed Pera Law, workers will enjoy the following tax benefits:

- A tax credit, equivalent to five percent of the members' Pera contributions;
- A tax exemption for the income of their Pera contribution; and,
- A tax exemption for the distribution of their Pera contributions.

Availment of these tax perks is subject to certain conditions. For instance, the bill states that, while a Pera contributor shall get a tax credit, no tax refund shall be given. A tax credit can be deducted from a tax that is due to be paid by a taxpayer to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Although all income to be derived by the Pera is tax exempt, the proposed bill also states that the tax exemption can be enjoyed only if the Pera account is invested solely in "Pera Investment Products" in the Philippines.

The eligible Pera investment instruments shall include shares of stock in listed firms, exchange-traded bonds, a unit investment trust fund, a mutual fund and an annuity contract.

"It's only fair that Pera contributions be pumped back into local investment products so Pera members can spread around their tax benefits from the proposed law," Lim said. "There is no question, therefore, in my mind that the proposed law will add more vigor to the local capital market."

LIM

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WTO talks revival sought

Group says Doha talks crucial to businesses, consumers

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By Ronnel W. Domingo

A GROUP OF BUSINESS LEADERS in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation are calling on their respective governments to revive the collapsed World Trade Organization's Doha Round of talks, saying that this is "of deep concern for businesses and consumers."

Vietnam's Hoang Van Dung, current chair of the Apec Business Advisory Council, said the failure of the Doha negotiations would hurt economic growth in the region and dampen the potential for continuing rapid economic growth.

Dung said other Abac members shared his views and that he had written to Apec leaders urging them to resume trade negotiations in the WTO.

"(I asked them) to complete the Doha Round and to find common ground on outstanding issues," he said. "It is critical that negotiators are directed to get the Doha Development Agenda restarted as soon as possible."

Dung added that Abac has been making arrangements for representatives to visit Geneva in September to join members of European business organizations in pressing for a meaningful outcome from the DDA negotiations.

Abac, where government leaders and up to three business leaders from each Apec member are represented, held its third meeting for the year in Cebu last week in time with the 10th anniversary of the founding of the business council.

Aside from Vietnam, the other Apec members are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

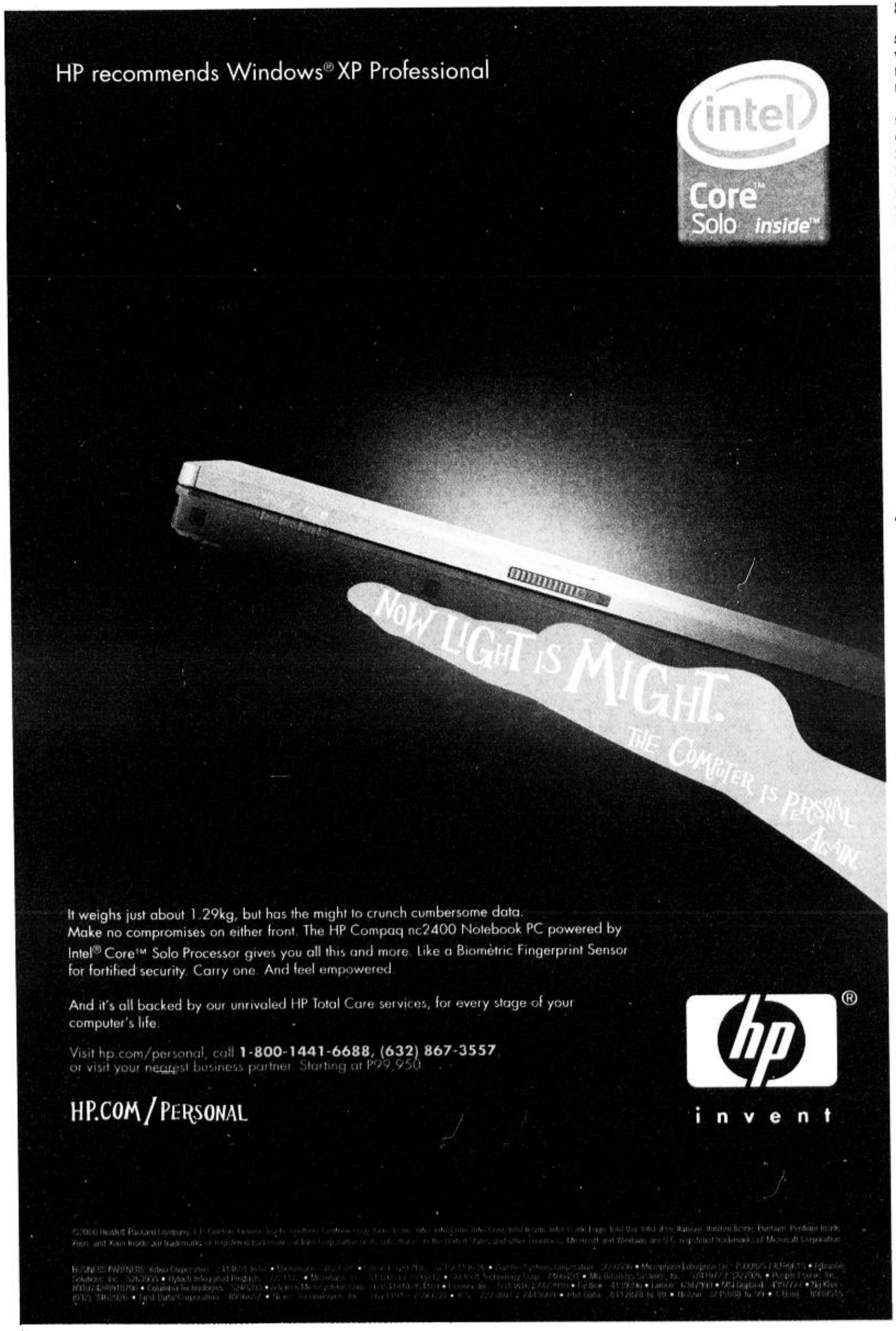
According to Abac, Apec represented some 56 percent of the world's output and about half of global trade.

During the meeting in Cebu, noted economists had urged Apec to spearhead efforts to save the multilateral trading system through a revival the Doha Round amid the proliferation of bilateral and regional trade arrangements, which they said were undermining the benefits of global trade liberalization.

Supachai Panitchpakdi, former WTO director general, said APEC leaders should assess the group's contributions in developing multilateralism and realize the influence that it holds in the field of international trade.

"Apec can help pick up the pieces of the (collapsed Doha Round)," said Supachai, now secretary general of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Hopes of wrapping up the DDA crumbled when leading economies could not agree on the removal of export subsidies and other contested matters during a meeting last month.



Japan firm to sink equity into coal-to-fuel project

By Abigail L. Ho

JAPANESE FIRM SUMITOMO Corp. and local company MG Mining and Energy Corp. have agreed to infuse equity into the country's first coal-to-fuel project.

Antonio Ver, president of project proponent H&WB Corp., said that of the available 15-percent equity stake, Sumitomo agreed to take 15-20 percent, while MG Mining would take another 30 percent.

The remaining 50-55 percent of the 15 percent, he said, was still available for other prospective equity partners.

Apart from the equity infusion, both companies had agreed to forge other deals with H&WB with regard to the coal liquefaction project, Ver said.

Sumitomo had offered to be the buyer of all products that the hybrid coal liquefaction facility would produce upon commercial operation, he said.

Ver added that MG Mining, through operating affiliate Sultan Energy Philippines Corp., had offered not only to become one of the coal liquefaction plant's offtakers, but had also sought to serve as one of the facility's coal suppliers.

When H&WB conducted its evaluation of local coals for use in the coal liquefaction plant, coal from the Daguma mines in South Cotabato was one of the three types of coal used.

MG Mining has extensive coal resources in seven blocks of property at the Daguma mountain range in Sultan Kudarat.

Apart from MG Mining, Ver said H&WB had signed a memorandum of understanding with PT Andalan Bumi Indonesia for a long-term coal supply contract.

The project's financial closing was expected to take place in 2008, following the completion of front-end engineering and design (FEED) works, he said.

Major tasks under the FEED include, among others, the formulation of the basic engineering design for the plant, generation of an accurate project cost estimate, and the conduct of a market study to identify product pricing, demand and potential market for nontransportation products.

The proposed coal liquefaction facility is expected to yield 50,000 barrels per day of ultra-clean fuels for transportation.

Apart from gasoline, diesel and liquefied petroleum gas, the facility can also generate 67.2 megawatts (MW) of power on combined cycle from the steam that will be recovered from the liquefaction plant.

This 67.2 MW of power can be channeled to the grid as this is already outside of the coal liquefaction facility's own power requirements.

Prior to the construction of a commercial-sized plant, a pilot plant that will be fed 20 kilograms of coal a day will be established.

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Overcoming pain**
Cory Quirino /C4
■ **Captivating Coron**
Maurice Arcache /C4

LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) **or email us at** lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Call to readers

WE WANT TO COMPILE A READING LIST THAT we hope will jumpstart the interest of Filipino boys in reading and convert them into readers for life.

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Send your list to books4boys@inquirer.com.ph or text 0918-3824061. Include name, address and daytime phone number.

Easy-to-swallow diet tips

Part one

IF WEIGHT LOSS IS ONE OF your fitness goals, going on a drastic, calorie-cutting diet is not the only way to achieve it.

Weight management experts believe the best way to achieve permanent weight loss is to make small changes you can sustain for the rest of your life.

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

Following the diet tips below may not be the fast track to being slim but they are definitely better than losing a lot of weight on an extreme diet in a short amount of time, only to regain everything and more.

• Eat slowly.

Many people eat too much because they eat too fast. Scientists say it takes at least 20 minutes for the appetite-regulating mechanism in your brain to signal your stomach that you are full.

Chew your food slowly. Put your utensils down between bites. Savor the taste and texture of your food. Try this method and be pleasantly surprised at how you can be satisfied with much less food without being hungry.

Still not convinced? Obesity researcher Thomas Wadden secretly timed participants. People who ate the slowest lost the most weight at the end of his 28-week study.

• Fifteen minutes.

Make a deal with yourself. If you feel you want a second helping, resolve that you will get that second helping but only after waiting for at least 15 minutes. Most of the time, you will discover that you don't really want more food. Use the 15-minute rule to deal with "overwhelming" cravings.

• Brush your teeth.

Brushing your teeth immediately after eating may help stop you from raiding the refrigerator after dinner. Keeping your mouth busy by drinking a hot non-calorie beverage like herbal tea can stop you from thinking about a high-calorie dessert.

• Thirst or hunger?

Experts say some people have become insensitive to real hunger pangs. When you think you are hungry, you may actually be thirsty. Let your body decide by first drinking a glass of water. Wait 10-15 minutes. If it doesn't work, then you must really be hungry.

• Planned snacking

It's normal to be hungry four hours after eating. Plan for these expected intervals by preparing low-calorie snacks. Without a prepared snack at 4 p.m., you will buy the first thing that looks good in a fast-food place or you will grab whatever goodies are in your refrigerator.

• Physical or emotional?

Are you really "stomach-hurting" hungry or "heart-hurting" hungry? Food is a source of emotional comfort for many people. Before you give in to your hunger, analyze if you are angry, depressed, sad or just plain bored.

If you determine that you are emotionally hungry, choose another form of coping, like calling a close friend, having a massage or reading a humorous book. Food is a poor way to calm frazzled nerves or heal a painful heart.

• Downsize snacks

Many people don't stop eating a snack until there is nothing left in the container. In experiments, participants even ate large amounts of stale popcorn simply because it was in a super-sized bag. Get rid of this bad habit by dividing snack contents into smaller containers (don't do this when you are hungry) or simply by buying smaller-sized snacks.

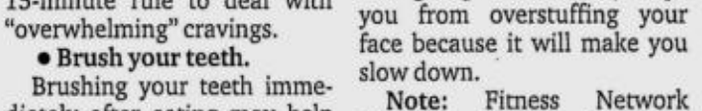
• Non-dominant hand

It sounds crazy but using your non-dominant hand (your left hand if you are right-handed and vice-versa) while eating finger foods really helps you from overstuffing your face because it will make you slow down.

Note: Fitness Network Philippines (formerly AFPP) will hold its National Fitness Convention, "Global Fitness Concepts," Sept. 22-24. Seven international presenters will share the latest in group exercise, personal training and fitness management. Call 9202762 or 0917-5181202. E-mail convention@fitness-philippines.org or visit www.fitnessphilippines.org

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Prone opposite arm and leg lift

THIS IS AN ALL-AROUND STRENGTHENER FOR THE MUSCLES at the back of the body—back of the shoulders, middle back, lower back, buttock and hamstrings.

Equipment:
Exercise mat

Exercise technique:
1. Lie prone with arms slightly wider than your shoulders and your legs slightly wider than your hips.
2. Lift your right arm and left leg. Lower them down.
3. Repeat with the left arm and right leg.
4. This is considered one repetition.
5. Do the desired number of repetitions.

Performance tips:
1. Keep both hipbones touching the floor as you lift opposite arms and legs.
2. Keep eyes looking down so head stays in alignment with spine.
3. Exhale as you lift; inhale as you lower.
4. Tighten buttocks muscles before you lift your legs.
5. Don't just lift your limbs. Lengthen and elongate them as you lift.

Repetitions:
Do 10 repetitions.

An ancient recipe for well-being

By Anne A. Jambora

Developed by Tibetans, Brown Rice tea supposedly invigorates body and soul

WILLIAM Guido, Team Asia Corp. president and CEO, with Anson Low, founder of Highlanders Int'l Pte. Ltd., makers of the Brown Rice Tea

IMAGINE FINALLY BEING ABLE to sleep soundly and not having to go to the bathroom several times during the night.

Imagine not suffering from headaches and migraines as much as before, while enjoying better blood circulation, relief from body aches and rheumatism, greater control of blood pressure and blood sugar, and so much more.

This is the promise contained in a single tea packet, based on a recipe as old as the legend it tells.

When Singaporean engineer Anson Low befriended a Tibetan yogi in the late '90s, he was introduced to an ancient brew made primarily from brown rice. It supposedly invigorated the body and soul.

Having sampled many so-called health products over the years, Low was skeptical, but gave it a shot anyway.

Now a believer

But after his first cup, Low started to see the brown beverage in a different light. Continued consumption of the tea, which he brought everywhere, even to his regular badminton sessions, made him a believer.

Now he wants the rest of the world to benefit from this "miracle" tea that has won accolades from thousands of consumers in Singapore.

According to legend, early Tibetans developed a variety of blends from herbs and natural food to combat the freezing weather and thin oxygen high up in the mountains. Among the exotic drinks that survived the test of time is what Low has branded the Brown Rice Tea, produced by his company, Highlanders Int'l Pte. Ltd.

"What I'm bringing is a 100 percent all-natural, traditional recipe, with no cholesterol, no caffeine, no salt and sugar, no preservatives. Absolutely no side effects," said Low.

Consumers get the original recipe, and a little more. Low, who personally oversees production, said he came up with more than 20 different formulations before getting the right combination.

Licorice and *dan shen*, both traditional Chinese medicines, were been added to enhance the beverage's benefits. The main component, high-grade brown rice, is from Thailand.

10 times better

Brown rice, said Low, was 10 times more nutritious than the common white rice. It basically is white rice before milling. Since brown rice is "unpolished," it retains its outer skin and embryo. The skin is high in fiber, while the embryo is rich in vitamins, minerals and amino acids.

Low said brown rice is recommended for diabetics as it takes the body longer to convert the high-density content into sugar. The insoluble fiber also helps relieve constipation and prevent colon cancer.

The licorice, Low added, protected the liver

AN ANCIENT/ C3

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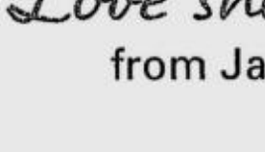

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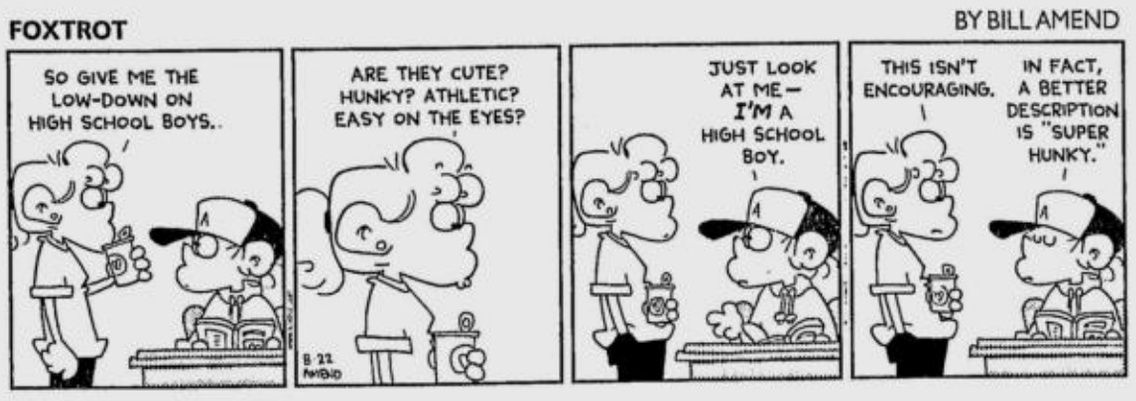
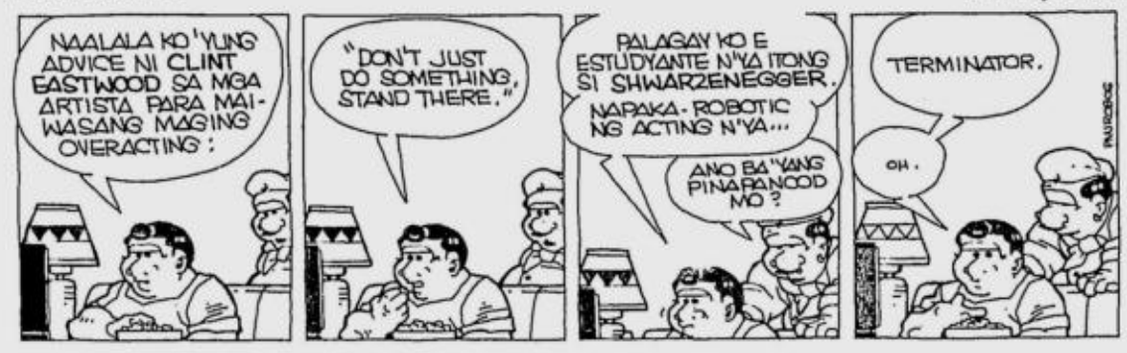


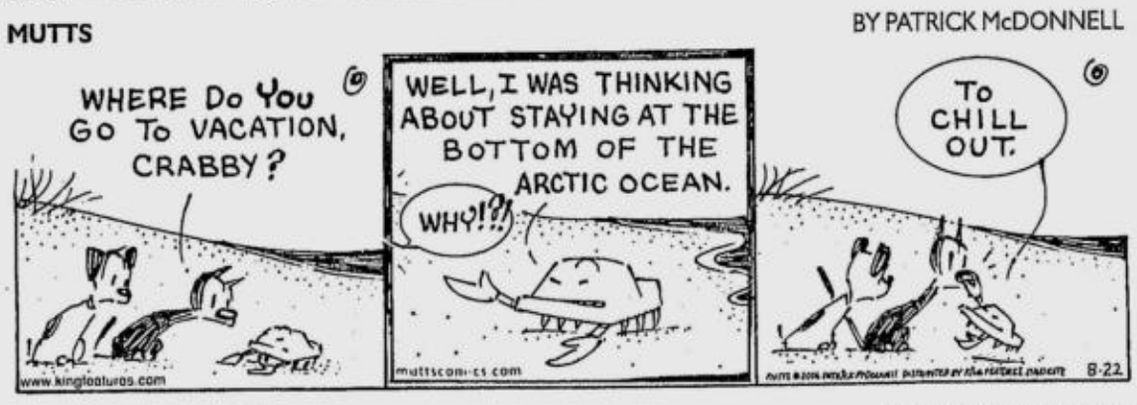
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR



MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

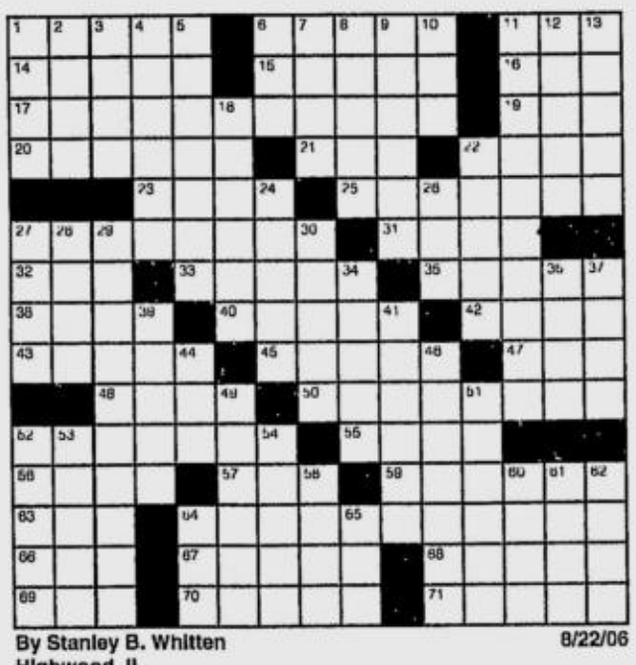
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

8/22/06

ACROSS
1 Establish
6 Mother-of-pearl
11 X rating?
14 Maine college town
15 Canary's greeting
16 Actress Lupino
17 Puzzle editor's brief films?
19 1501
20 Tranquilize
21 Flowers to wear
22 Vast landmass
23 Sure thing
25 Made fast
27 Time between
31 Extinct bird
32 __ Paulo
33 Part of WASP
35 Dalai Lama's land
38 Well, __ that special?
40 Resided
42 Grow weary
43 More like a wallflower
45 Make sure of
47 GPS heading
48 Slender
50 Emphasizes
52 Gossip rag
55 Part of pants
56 Nothing but
57 Lobster eggs
59 Fistfights
63 Links grp.
64 Heavyweight champ's abodes?
66 Make a blunder
67 Light on one's feet
68 Happening
69 Type of whiskey
70 Attack from all sides
71 Transmits

DOWN
1 Sty matriarchs
2 HOMES part
3 Tattled
4 Open ties
5 Wall hangings
6 Final degree
7 Truant from the troops
8 Daughter of Ops
9 Got back to even
10 UFO pilots
11 "Dead Man Walking" director's birds?
12 Vedder of Pearl Jam
13 Water nymph
18 Spotted wildcat
22 Financial review
24 Cabs
26 Portable bed
27 Wife/sister of Osiris
28 "Bed Riddance" author
29 British PM's stridency?
30 Adores
34 Small salamanders
36 Sea eagle
37 Golf gadgets
39 Actor Savalas
41 Coercion
44 Spanish river
46 Georgia fruit
49 Desert deception
51 Endeavored
52 Drunkard
53 Furious
54 Lessing or Day
58 Perry's penner
60 Grace's last word
61 __ Orellle Lake
62 Mach+ breakers
64 Sci. class
65 To date

Monday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	R	O	M	■	O	A	F	S	■	S	W	A	G
O	B	A	M	A	■	C	H	A	P	■	T	I	L	E
N	O	S	E	S	■	C	A	L	L	■	S	N	I	T
J	O	H	N	Q	P	U	B	L	I	C	■	G	A	B
■	■	■	U	A	R	■	■	C	L	A	S	S	Y	■
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T	O	M	D	I	C	K	A	N	D	H	A	R	R	Y
S	T	E	I	N	■	I	L	S	A	■	C	O	I	N
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C	A	S	E	■	D	E	A	L	■	W	E	I	S	S

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8/22/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have an amazing imagination. Nevertheless, you're surprisingly practical and resourceful. Many of you are collectors. You appreciate the beauty of everyday things. You're loyal to family and friends, but you definitely have a mind of your own! Privately, you adore mysteries and secrets. This year focuses on partnerships and close friendships. Enjoy!
Birthdate of: Giada De Laurentiis, celebrity chef; Cindy Williams, actress; E. Annie Proulx, author

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You might go overboard buying something for a family member or for where you live. (Sometimes we just have to do these things.) Just make sure you don't regret it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Don't make promises that you can't keep later. It's very easy to do this today. Basically, you're eager to please others and to keep them happy.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a good day for moneymaking deals. You might see a way to boost your income. If you're spending money or shopping, you could be a bit extravagant.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It's so easy to be extravagant and outrageous today. You're not alone: Many feel the same way. You might as well join up with someone and really paint the town red!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You have high aspirations to do something today. While this is very good, do not act on them just yet. Perhaps they are a bit too ambitious.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Don't let someone talk you into spending more money than you want to today. Somehow, your involvement with friends or groups could lose you money. Alternatively, it's also possible this same involvement will make you money! Oy!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): The advice from bosses, parents and VIPs could be valuable to you today. Opportunities exist for you to increase your earnings in some way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Travel plans or matters connected with publishing and the media might be a bit over the top. However, if you can pull them off, more power to you!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You definitely stand to benefit from the wealth of others today. However, if you have to share something, be reasonable. Don't give away the farm.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): In your eagerness to please others, you might promise them more than you can deliver. You have been warned. Be careful how you handle today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're taking a long-range view of something at work today. You feel optimistic and positive. Double-check everything to make sure you haven't overlooked something.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a wonderful day to party, flirt and have fun! You want to have a good time. New love is promising. Keep your head in the clouds and your feet on the ground.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

7			2		5			6
		4		9		5		
	1						7	
4			1		8			7
	2						8	
3			9		4			1
	6						1	
		9		8		4		
5			6		7			2

Difficulty Level ★★

8/22

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	5	2	8	7	6	3	4	1
3	6	4	1	5	9	8	2	7
8	1	7	3	4	2	5	9	6
5	4	3	9	6	8	1	7	2
7	8	9	4	2	1	6	5	3
6	2	1	7	3	5	9	8	4
4	3	8	5	1	7	2	6	9
1	9	6	2	8	4	7	3	5
2	7	5	6	9	3	4	1	8

Difficulty Level ★

8/21

The power to materialize things

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE HAS A story about Jesus Christ feeding 5,000 people with a few pieces of bread and fish. Not only did they have their fill, but several baskets of leftovers were collected.

This act is considered a miracle in Christianity. Today, the science of parapsychology calls it "materialization," "producing something out of nothing."

Stage magicians and illusionists, like the world-renowned David Copperfield, can make birds appear out of nowhere and even make a live elephant disappear in front of a large crowd. But they do these by sleight-of-hand, illusion or trickery.

I have personally seen cases of materialization that are not products of illusion or trickery. One involved Sri Lankan spiritual guru Swami Premananda. He just moves his hand, palm down, in the air. When he turns his palm up, a statue of a Hindu god, or crucifix or anything suddenly appears on it.

He has done this countless of times before various audiences. I've also seen video tapes of more spectacular materializations performed by the Indian guru Swami Satya Sai Baba.

Strict scientific observations have been done by western investigators on these two spiritual teachers with extraordinary psychic powers. No one has ever proved that any one of them is performing trickery. They were genuine materializations.

Our world-famous Filipino faith healers and psychic surgeons are also able to materialize things. But what they materialize are diseased tissues or flesh and blood, not birds or elephants. They also materialize objects inserted into victims' bodies through sorcery or black magic, such as broken glass, cockroaches, nails, egg shells, hair, plastic ropes, etc.

Mental power

How is materialization done? There are different ways of doing this. One is through sheer mental power.

A person must be able to visualize in very clear and vivid detail the object he wishes to materialize. He must be able to see, feel, taste, smell and hear the object. He must also have a strong desire or intention to make that object appear physically in front of him. And he must be able to slow down his brain waves to the Delta level (almost zero to four cycles per second) without falling asleep. These are the conditions for materialization to take place.

In the late '80s, I observed a poor man named Estong materialize coins from his mouth on the streets of Edsa Central in Mandaluyong City. Bus and jeepney drivers would give him, for example, 25-centavo coins. He would put the coin in his empty mouth and when he opened it, a one-peso coin had replaced the 25-centavo coin.

Others are able to materialize things with the help of some spirit helpers or guides and not just through their mental powers. These people are able to get such spirits to do their bidding.

Materialization need not be immediate or instantaneous, like what Swami Premananda or Swami Sai Baba does. It can be over a period of time. But the result is the same eventually, namely, the sudden physical appearance of something desired.

For example, a housewife one afternoon wanted to eat a banana but it was not being sold nearby. After a while, that same afternoon, somebody knocked on her door, a banana vendor. He said it was not his usual route. Isn't this a case of materialization, too?

Examples

There are many examples of this type of materialization in daily life. A boy wishing to have a particular toy receives it as a gift, although he told no one about it. A lowly employee wanting to own an expensive camera he couldn't afford suddenly gets one from a cousin who unexpectedly arrives from Saudi Arabia.

A regular reader of this column sent me recently a text message saying, on many occasions, what she had in mind would just come to her or would be offered to her without her telling anybody about it.

If one argues that only God can make miracles, like making things appear out of nowhere, tell him that Jesus Christ himself said in the Bible: (John 14:12) "All the works that I have done you can do, and much more than these."

If Jesus Christ, who is the son of God, said this, it must be true we can materialize things like he did over 2000 years ago.

Note: I will conduct my two-day seminar on Inner Mind Development in Royal Mandaya Hotel in Davao City Aug. 26-27. Call Jess Saplala at 0917-8313649 or Dr. Joy Pagaran at 0916-7385069. Don't miss this.

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An ancient recipe ...

From page C1

by cleansing it of impurities. Licorice is also believed to relieve cough, colds and sore throat and facilitates digestion.

Dan shen, taken like warm juice in China, he said, dilated blood vessels to promote better circulation. It nourishes blood cells, boost the immune system and increases energy level.

Low said all the goodness of brown rice was retained during processing of the tea. The whole grain is fried before it is ground and mixed with superior grade *dan shen* and licorice. Hence, it is even recommended that the residue, after the liquid is drained from the cup, be eaten. Other benefits include improvement of *qi* (the life force or spiritual energy), rosier and better complexion, and reduction of tummy bulge.

"Brown Rice Tea relaxes the body, relieves stress, and makes you sleep better. This is the only health drink that actually reduces, and eventually eliminates, night urination that often disrupts sleep," Low said.

As you like it

Serve it anyway you wanted, said Low—mixed with soups, noodles and food. Or have it the traditional way: hot like regular tea.

Thousands of written testimonials faxed to the company extol the beverage's benefits. William Guido, president and CEO Team Asia Corp., local distributors of the Brown Rice Tea, said he first tested the product's claims before bringing it to the country.

Guido said the pressures of running the family business, worrying over profits, etc., made sleep almost impossible each evening even when he was beat from work. But, a week after consistently drinking the tea, the sandman finally visited, sending him straight to slumberland.

"I believe in Low's product. That's the only reason I've decided to bring the tea to Filipinos," Guido said.

The Brown Rice Tea has passed strict Singaporean standards for high-quality product that it has been allowed to use the lion head symbol on its packaging. The product will soon be available at all Mercury Drugstore outlets.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

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What other pulmonary conditions/diseases are common in the Philippines? (aside from lung cancer)

There are many pulmonary diseases affecting Filipinos today. Even if we try our best to protect ourselves with medicines and immunizations, we still catch these diseases at least once or twice a year, because pollution remains to be the major reason. The respiratory system is divided into upper and lower respiratory tract. The common conditions affecting the upper respiratory tract are 1) acute tonsillopharyngitis as manifested by sore throat, fever, and dry cough 2) acute rhinitis or "common colds" which presents with nasal stuffiness, runny nose, sneezing and teary eyes. On the other hand, the lower respiratory tract infection or diseases like bronchial asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are more complicated and often leads to hospitalization. Pneumonia is the infection of the lungs and typically manifests with cough and phlegm, difficulty in breathing and fever. While, pulmonary tuberculosis or TB is a deadly but rather treatable disease with symptoms of chronic cough, low-grade fever, back pain, weight loss and sometimes coughing out of blood. These pulmonary conditions if left untreated are a major reason why people take a leave or are not able to work. It is important that evaluation be done early in the course of the disease so that appropriate treatment be started, thus costly medicines and hospitalizations may be avoided.

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our medical service provider from Metro Manila, Dr. Jose Aristotle C. Rodriguez. He specializes in Pulmonary Medicine. He obtained his medicine course from DLSU Medical Center in1995 and finished his subspeciality course for Pulmonology in 2004. He is an active member of different organizations like the Philippine College of Physicians, Las Pinas Medical Society and Philippine College of Chest Physicians. He is married to Maria Cristina Ang-Rodriguez,RN. MEDICard members may avail his consultation services at Alabang Medical Center during Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 9am to 12 noon at Room 433.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquirya medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

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'God's country on earth' is just west of Manila

BENNY and Olivia Aw, Anette Ablan

HANDSOME Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian

BUSINESS magnate Tony Boy Cojuangco, with the grand dinner hostess, gorgeous Che Singson, and beautiful Gretchen Barretto

FUN PACK: Vivacious Anette Ablan, body-beautiful Mary Ann Vargas and Margarita McNamee

LIVING happily ever after. Christine Roxas and husband, top lawyer Toto Ferrer

SOCIETY queens: Nedy Tantoco and Diana Jean Lopez

EYE-CATCHING beauties: Ruffa Gutierrez and Vivian Velez

MOVIE stars Daisy Romualdez and Annabelle Rama

HEY, *PALANGGAS*, DID YOU KNOW everyone's latest favorite holiday destination is Palawan? Well, to be exact, the gorgeous islands of Coron, dubbed by visitors as "God's country on earth."

Getting there is a breeze with that sleek airline Seair. Flying time is the same as going to Boracay.

Now check this out, people. Coron consists of more than a thousand islands. Imagine having an island all to yourself. It's the closest thing to owning your own exclusive and private island.

For all of us seeking our very own Himalaya by the sea, the Palawan Center has opened on Pasay Road.

Heading the pack at the pre-launch cocktail party attended by our town's hot, hot namedroppables was **James Simpson**, president of Destination and Development Inc. and prime mover of the Palawan Center, who said "Palawan is definitely the next global destination in the Philippines. It has a gigantic potential for trade."

Good-looking Palawan Gov. **Joel Reyes** gave his full support to this novel concept, telling us, "This center is the first of its kind in the country. It boasts of an exhibition area with booths that display the products and resorts. Sophisticated Jewelmer and the fast Seair, among others, are already in the lineup of exhibitors."

During cocktails, the governor proudly announced that the *tres* popular Paradise Mango Rum "has been chosen as the official drink of Palawan." Brilliant **Patrick Tan**, VP of Seair, beamed ear to ear when Seair was named "official airline to Coron." Enchanting music was provided by **Jay Cayuca**.

Here you can make a 360-degree turn and find that everywhere you look, the view is absolutely breathtaking. The popular **Louie Cruz**, top publicist, considers Coron "the third wonder of the world," *palanggas*.

Close pals at Red

After all the affairs the Singsons were invited to, it was time to reciprocate, and what better place to give a dinner for close pals than Red, *palanggas*, the chic resto at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, *n'est-ce pas?*

Hosting the fun get-together was none other than the stunningly beautiful **Che Singson**, who was the perfect hostess as she entertained such distinguished invitees as a Mexican *famille* who jetted in from Mexico; **Art** and **Diana Flores**, with their heirs **Mahti**, **Amanda** and **Alex**; fun couple **Richie** and **Margarita McNamee** of Los Angeles, California; renowned American architect **Hal Swanson** and **Dan Ollis**; blockbuster director **Carlo Caparas** and wife **Donna Villa**; **Eddie Gutierrez** and wife **Annabelle Rama**, with sons **Richard** and **Raymond**; **Danita Paner**; movie producer **Clavel Bendana**; and Las Vegas-based **Ana Basa**.

Needless to say, Che S. chose the best menu, which was excellently prepared by the hotel's fab chefs. Wine overflowed. The place showcased an arrangement of giant, fresh white flowers from the magic hands of well-known florist **Ramon Pastor**.

The Joe Nicholas String Ensemble played soothing music while the invitees enjoyed their dinner consisting of Duo of Pan-seared *Foie Gras* with lavender glaze, bitter green with Washington State red apple chip, crème brûlée of foie gras; Red New England Clam Chowder; and a choice between US Chilled New York Strip (12 oz) with skillet-roasted mushroom and mashed potatoes, or Slipper Lobster (1.5 lb) with skillet-roasted mushrooms and mashed potatoes and the calorific to-die-for Orange Valrhona Chocolate Cake with brandied red berries and sugar-caged ivory chocolate ice cream.

Now, that's what good hosting is all about, Che Singson-style, *palanggas*.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

Good finds

Hey, guess what? We now have all kinds of retail outlets. The latest to join this *famille* is the awesome Finds Superstore on the ground floor of Starmall Edsa in Mandaluyong, *palanggas*. Living up to its name, Finds Superstore is stocked with amazing and delightful shopping surprises.

Seeing is believing and, believe me, the merchandise mix has something for every member of the *famille*. What's more, the uncluttered, well-lit selling area, with its tastefully done interiors, sits on an awesome 3,600-sq m prime property, making it a breeze to browse around and search for great finds, dahlings.

Among the hot fashion brands is the house label TPF (as in The Perfect Find), *palanggas*. It's got fab exciting style for men, women and kids. Other great finds are Whoops!, Bench, Pink Soda, Page, Sand, BNY Jeans and Crocs.

Exclusive at Finds is Jen, gorgeous actress **Jennylyn Mercado**'s first shot at fashion designing. The Jen clothing line is trendy and bold, reflecting the actress' personal taste in fashion. Check out that awesome billboard of Jen on Edsa-Ortigas that shows Jennylyn M's funky, romantic and sophisticated appeal.

And for all of us dog lovers, Pooch Couture is the unique canine designer label at Finds.

It has everything. Your doggie will become a society figure in those clothes, accessories, plus, plus.

A "first" for any department store is having your shoes custom-made with the color, style, heels or anything else you like. You name it, they'll make it.

Overseeing the overall operation is young hotshot main man, dynamic entrepreneur **Mark Aguilar Villar**. "I hope to show shoppers that quality and value for money can go hand in hand."

Mark's younger sister with the four Bs, **Camille**, is head of marketing. A hip fashion observer, this young miss is also involved in merchandising, and helps in selecting the fashion items the store carries.

Check out Finds Superstore at the ground floor of Starmall at Shaw Blvd. corner Edsa in Mandaluyong. Call 7183407.

CELINE Lopez, Rep. Cynthia Aguilar V. and husband Sen. Manny Villar, Camille Villar and Marcel Crespo

CHRISTIAN Bautista, Jennylyn Mercado and Mark Villar

JOANNE Legasto and Owen Joaquin

DAN OLLIS, Jean Saburit, Hal Swanson and Jean's daughter, Nicole Anderson

The language of pain

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

THE HUMAN CONDITION IS SUCH that pain, as well as change, is inevitable.

But a special kind of doctor believes that pain in all its forms and degrees can be managed and overcome. In several encounters in various health summits, I have come to understand his world and his mission—and that is to remove pain.

Utopian as it may sound, Dr. Cris Mancao, chronic pain specialist who heads the Mancao Myotherapy Clinic, says, "It is possible to overcome pain by understanding its language."

He describes a typical situation. Dante is a 58-year-old businessman whose success is well-known.

Admired by many as a successful leader, he is as driven today when he is pushing 60 as he was in his 30s. But for the last five years, he has been bothered by a frozen shoulder, unable at times to bear the excruciating pain.

Pain speaks

"All pain is unexpressed emotion," says Mancao. What aggravate this manifestation of emotional distress are lifestyle and ignorance. He said, if left unattended, the pain would increase or, worse, never go away.

Our bodies speak to us in ways we may not understand. They may be conveying messages from our subconscious, conversations we can hear if we listen...

"Attend to your emotions today. Do not postpone it."

"You are totally overworked. Relieve yourself of the load."

"Speak up. Express your hurts and frustrations to the person who causes you pain."

Denial

The place where one runs to and hides is that comfort zone that refuses to be shaken by the truth of a situation. Not facing the same truth is Denial.

This, according to Mancao, is the inevitable place where people with chronic pain stay. For this same reason, the pain remains.

Mind-body conflict

If you were to synthesize the practice and philosophy of pain management, much is dependent on the connection of mind and body and their conflict (barring other causes of pain like arthritis, cancer, heart disease, etc.).

The mind plays such a major role in the birth, presence and disappearance of pain in our lives that makes us ask ourselves: "Can it be possible for me to have greater control over this condition?" The answer is a resounding "yes!"

Pain-free life

Chronic pain is a recurring, constant pain, one that may go away for a while but returns.

Saying yes to "no pain" can involve three steps: A, B, C.

Accept in your mind that all pain may be physical but it is triggered by a non-physical condition.

Believe that there is a solution to all your pain and, consequently, all your problems.

Care for yourself by saying, "I will only give myself the best so I can enjoy the best of life."

The best

Wanting the best for yourself means not settling for second best. In the pursuit of our life's goals and dreams, ultimately the choices we make and decisions we arrive at are entirely up to us.

Amazing results happen almost overnight with this frame of mind. And, at Mancao's clinic, this is visibly evident. His regimen includes several treatments, nutritional guidance and discipline.

Within seconds, through the use of hand manipulation and machines, patients who were once almost crippled by pain leave with a bouncy stride.

Asked how he does what he does, the good doctor smiles and affirms, "The pain you have is the pain I have taken away."

Affirmation

"Pain is just a thought away."

Love and light!

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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ROGER Garcia, second from left, dons "Jewel in the Palace" costume with other visitors on the set of the Korean telenovela, which has been turned into a theme park. Note the Janggeum Seo standee, third from left. Korean soaps were featured on his TV show.

RP films can 'cross over'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IF YOU'RE A YOUNG FILipino filmmaker hoping to crash the international film community, don't turn to Hollywood producer and festival director Roger Garcia for quick and easy how-to's. There's no surefire formula, he would surely insist.

"If I knew, I'd probably be richer now," he told INQUIRER Entertainment recently.

He noted a "diversity in stories and voice" among contemporary Filipino films.

"But it's still in the social realist mode. Drama, however, is a hard sell overseas."

So what type of local films can make it abroad?

TAKE FIVE

But there's no surefire formula, says Roger Garcia, H'wood producer and festival director

"I think horror films or gay movies like 'Macho Dancer' may cross over. 'Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros' was popular, but it falls into a certain historical tradition. [It crossed over because] there's a gay element and it's about the slums. [More significantly] it's a well-made film with a lot of heart," he said.

Garcia was in Manila recently to serve in the jury and deliver the keynote speech at the Cinemalaya film festival.

In his speech, he tackled "the global development of film fests and the progress of Filipino films in the international festival circuit."

"I concentrated on the things a filmmaker needs to do so his film would be accepted in a festival," he said.

Garcia has helped a number of Filipino films find an audience abroad. He produced Rico Ilarde's "Sa Ilalim ng Cogon," which was shown in Argentina, Switzerland, Korea and Italy.

Apart from his work with the Torino, Udine and San Francisco film fests, Garcia also wrote for "Cinema AZN," a TV show on Asian movies, aired on the AZN Channel, an Asian-American network.

The program, which featured crossover celebrities like Zhang Ziyi and Cesar Montano and regional phenomena like "Jewel in the Palace" in its first

RP/ D2

Ogie keeps mum about annulment moves

I TEXTED OGIE ALCASID ABOUT THE NEWS of his filing for annulment of his marriage to Michelle Van Eimeren. He texted back: "I would like to keep mum about anything (sic). Tnx 4 ur friendship & understanding. Love u Swty."

As a friend, I respect Ogie's decision to remain silent for now. In time, I'm sure he will be emotionally ready, willing and able to talk. For show biz watchers, it really comes as no surprise because talk about Ogie's marriage being on the rocks never waned. It started when Michelle and their two kids moved to her native Australia.

Rumors about Ogie's romance with Regine Velasquez also persist, to the point that it has become a running joke. But who's joking now? Separation is no laughing matter. A third party may either be the cause or the effect of the breakup. But whatever the reason, ex-couples like Ogie and Michelle must remember that just because their relationship ended doesn't mean that it failed.

Not running

Aga Muhlach declined offers to run for public office since he never had any political inclinations anyway. It's because he doesn't want to ruin his reputation. He's too honest to be a politico. And even without any position, he helps so many less fortunate ones. The vote of confidence given to him by the companies of the various products he endorses beats all the election votes combined. Besides, Aga is unlike most actors-turned-politicians who are all politics and no action.

Not threatened

Jopay Paguia of Sexbomb doesn't feel

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

threatened at all by the emergence of the Eat Bulaga Babes in the noontime show where she used be a part of. "I think they are good. I hope they will not waste the opportunity given to them."

Comparison is inevitable. Let's see if the EB Babes are a poor substitute or a worthy replacement for the Sexbomb Girls.

Mother role

Angelu de Leon has no qualms about portraying a mother role in the much-awaited ABS-CBN *telefantasya* "Super Inggo." "I'm a ma in real life so it's no big deal *na nanay ang role ko*. I know younger and fresher faces will always come along but it's versatility that gives you staying power." With a Best Actress award tucked in her belt, Angelu truly has the power to shine on.

Guess list

• Guess who this singer/actor is. His gay lover based in the US (who's the nephew of a bigwig in the actor's home studio) broke up with him because he can no longer stand the long-distance setup. Absence makes the heart grow fonder... for another?

• Guess who this sexy star is. Ms. Bombshell is in danger of becoming a "frozen delight" after her manager reportedly gave her an ultimatum. She has been late for tapings and even failed to show up for a show because she was with her BF. If only she would shape up in the behavioral department the way she keeps her body in shape...

Debut album

Isay Alvarez and Robert Seña are excited about their first album showcasing all Filipino love songs. The husband and wife team are avid fans of Pinoy classics from the '50s and '60s. "Kung Ako'y Mag-Aasawa," "Ikaw Ang Mahal Ko," "Kahit Na Magtiis," among others, are included in their album. The couple will also have a third series of their "Love You, Hate You, Love You" cabaret-type show at the Teatrino (Promenade Greenhills) starting Sept. 7. For tickets, call 7216726.

Ketchup catches up

ABS-CBN Star Magic artist Ketchup Eusebio is now reaping the fruits of his hard work. He recently bagged the Best Supporting Actor Award from the Gawad Urian for his exceptional performance as Pogi in the digital movie, "Sa Aking Pagkakagising Mula Sa Kamulatan." Funny guy Ketchup never expected that his softdrink commercial would pave the way for his showbiz career.

Sitti at Dish

Catch Bossa Nova Princess Sitti on Aug. 23, Wednesday at Dish ABS-CBN compound. For tickets, call 4130614.

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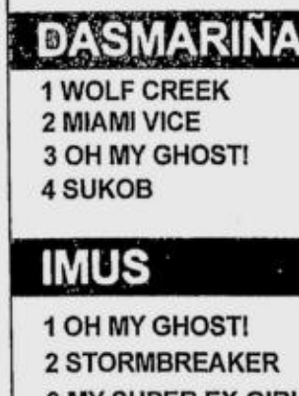

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11:30AM Admission Price- P150
ANT BULLY IN FULL IMAX 3D
1:00PM 3:00PM 5:00PM 7:00PM
P250 -Matinee (Mon- Thurs)
P300 -After 5 pm (Mon- Thurs)
P300 -All screenings (Fri- Sun)
SUPERMAN RETURNS
9:00PM Admission Price- P350
1 CLICK
2 AMERICAN DREAMZ/ BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 OH MY GHOST
6 MORTUARY
PREMIERE CINEMA
SUKOB
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND/ MIAMI VICE
PODIUM
CINEMA 1
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
CINEMA 2
AMERICAN DREAMZ
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 STORMBREAKER/ PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
5 SUKOB
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
7 MIAMI VICE
8 KUBRADOR
9 OH MY GHOST
10 MORTUARY
11 CLICK
12 AMERICAN DREAMZ

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 CLICK
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 MIAMI VICE
4 MORTUARY
5 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
7 STORMBREAKER
8 KUBRADOR
9 RESERVED
10 SUKOB
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
12 OH MY GHOST

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 MIAMI VICE
4 MORTUARY
5 CLICK
6 OH MY GHOST
7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
8 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
9 SUKOB
10 STORMBREAKER
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
12 ANT BULLY

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 OH MY GHOST
4 CLICK
5 SUKOB
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 MIAMI VICE
8 MORTUARY
9 AMERICAN DREAMZ
10 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 CLICK
4 MORTUARY
5 OH MY GHOST
6 SUKOB

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 OH MY GHOST
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 STORMBREAKER
8 MORTUARY
9 KUBRADOR/AMERICAN DREAMZ

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 OH MY GHOST
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 SUKOB

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 CLICK
3 MORTUARY
4 SUKOB
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
6 AMERICAN DREAMZ
7 KUBRADOR
8 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
9 STORMBREAKER
10 MIAMI VICE
11 OH MY GHOST
12 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 MIAMI VICE
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB
4 CLICK

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 OH MY GHOST

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
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2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

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1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB
4 ANT BULLY

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1 STORMBREAKER
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 OH MY GHOST
5 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
6 SUKOB
7 CLICK
8 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST
3 STORMBREAKER
4 SUKOB

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 SUKOB
2 CLICK
3 ANT BULLY
4 OH MY GHOST

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
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3 CLICK
4 JUST MY LUCK
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6 SUKOB

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1 SUKOB
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3 CLICK
4 STORMBREAKER
5 THE BREAK-UP
6 OH MY GHOST

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1 OH MY GHOST
2 ANT BULLY
3 MIAMI VICE
4 SUKOB

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1 CLICK
2 ANT BULLY
3 OH MY GHOST
4 SUKOB

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SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 CLICK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 MIAMI VICE
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
6 OH MY GHOST
7 SUKOB
8 MIAMI VICE

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 THE BREAK-UP
2 RESERVED
3 SUKOB
4 ANT BULLY
5 CLICK
6 OH MY GHOST
7 RESERVED
8 JUST MY LUCK

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 MIAMI VICE
2 SUKOB
3 LOVEWRECKED
4 OH MY GHOST
5 CLICK
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
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4 CLICK

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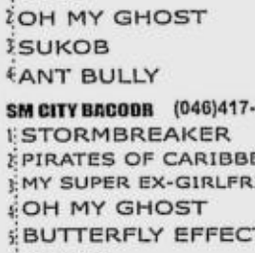

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Uma Thurm to the rescu

From page D4

cause she keeps the productio even beguiling with her unusu great looks and thespic inventive ment.

Luke Wilson also scores som earnest and deadpan depiction young man who gets to bed a m woman. His best bit is when h mid-air by his irate former love the Statue of Liberty.

As for Thurman, she has ma which she takes full advantage the movie from collapsing like t that it is.

So, see "My Super Ex-Girlfrie mances of its lead stars. That ma per time at the flicks, but it'll Thurman fans, who are thrilled actress still has what it takes to t to a delightful romp.

Feedback

From Paul R. Mortel of Mariki ulations to Chito Roño and Star movie, 'Sukob!'

It was superbly done. I thin will get an award for his 'markad film.

'Sukob,' then our film indust rected' in no time."

Teddy Geiger

At only 17, singer-songwriter ready has a Billboard Top 10 h You I Will," an acting career on key" and many adoring fans. H age Thinking," includes 12 pop- he wrote and co-producted, lik "Night Air" and "Seven Days W derage Thinking" is available record outlets. Log on to ww sic.com.

RP films can 'cross over'

From page D1

season, won at the New American Media Ethnic and Telly awards.

What led you to Filipino movies?

I've always been interested in popular genre cinema. On my first trip to Manila as a teenager, I was struck by a movie that I later learned was "Darna." I thought it was very interesting to have an Asian sci-fi film.

Later, I got a copy of the book "Doña Sisang and Filipino Movies," in which I discovered a whole tradition of cinema I knew nothing about: Lamberto Avellana, Gerardo de Leon, among others.

Then, I got a copy of Nick Deocampo's "History of Filipino Short Films."

[In effect,] I was led to Filipino cinema by popular movies, a curiosity about its history and an interest in its independent films.

What attracts you to Filipino movies?

The variety and the surprise element. Filipino films encompass the works of [independent filmmaker] Raya Martin and [mainstream director] Joyce Bernal.

I love them both. They work on opposite ends of the spectrum and yet they both possess the talent to astound and revitalize.

What I respect in local movies is the [filmmakers'] attempt to unravel the Filipino psyche. It is evident in both serious Lav Diaz films and popular fare like Fernando Poe Jr. and Eddie Romero movies.

Not many national cinemas do that.

Apart from independent producers, you're also working with mainstream studios?

I've been doing that for the past 10 years. It's a matter of finding the right place for your project.

For example: I would take a remake of a commercial movie to a studio first, while I would submit a Raymond Red film to European companies for financing since they are more open to art films.

What was the audience feedback to the Filipino films shown in the Udine, Torino and San Francisco festivals?

Generally, very good. I showed Laurice Guillen's "Tanging Yaman" to weeping audiences in Udine. Jon Red's "ASTIGmatism" to appreciative crowds in Torino, Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Bagong Buwan" to very interested audiences in San Francisco.

We had a great house for Chito Roño's "Dekada '70" in New York. I also premiered the first "rough cut" of Lav Diaz's "Ebolusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino" at the Imagenasian movie house in New York.

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s album, "Under-
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thout You." "Un-
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DID YOU KNOW...

JULIANNE MOORE plays an actress who is a self-confessed sex addict and whose husband cheats on her in her new film "Trust the Man," which was written and directed by her husband, Bart Freundlich.

But don't go making assumptions about their marriage, they hasten to say while promoting the film in New York, where they live.

"I've never been to a sex addicts' meeting, although I think probably every guy thinks he's a sex addict," said Freundlich. The couple's two young children appear in the film as her children. *Reuters*

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MORTUARY 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30	AMERICAN DREAMZ 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 12:35 / 2:55 / 5:15 / 7:35 / 9:55	Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 6:55/ 9:20	KUBRADOR 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00	OH MY GHOST 12:30 / 2:40 / 4:50	
ANT BULLY 12:50 / 2:50 / 4:50	CLICK 12:25 / 2:45 / 5:05 / 7:25 / 9:45	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20
MIAMI VICE 6:50 / 9:40	SUKOB 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20		

AliMALL 5

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30	MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 12:10 PM / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30	BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 12:15 / 3:05 / 5:55 / 8:45	
SUKOB 1:10 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10	OH MY GHOST 11:25 / 1:35 / 3:45 / 5:55 / 8:05	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS	

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

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REGULAR SCREENING:
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THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	3 MORTUARY	4 OH MY GHOST!
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CLICK	2 SUKOB	3 THX MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:25, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 AMERICAN DREAMZ	5 KUBRADOR	6 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	7 FREEDOMLAND
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND		2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA / GERMAN FILMFEST	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 FREEDOMLAND 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 AMERICAN DREAMZ 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CLICK 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA		2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	
	3 CLICK	4 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2	5 AMERICAN DREAMZ	
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M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND		2 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2	
	3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	4 OH MY GHOST!	5 SUKOB	

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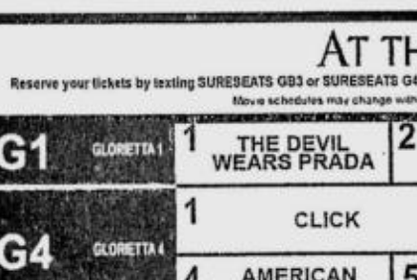


GOETHE-INSTITUT MANILA · Ayala Malls CINEMAS

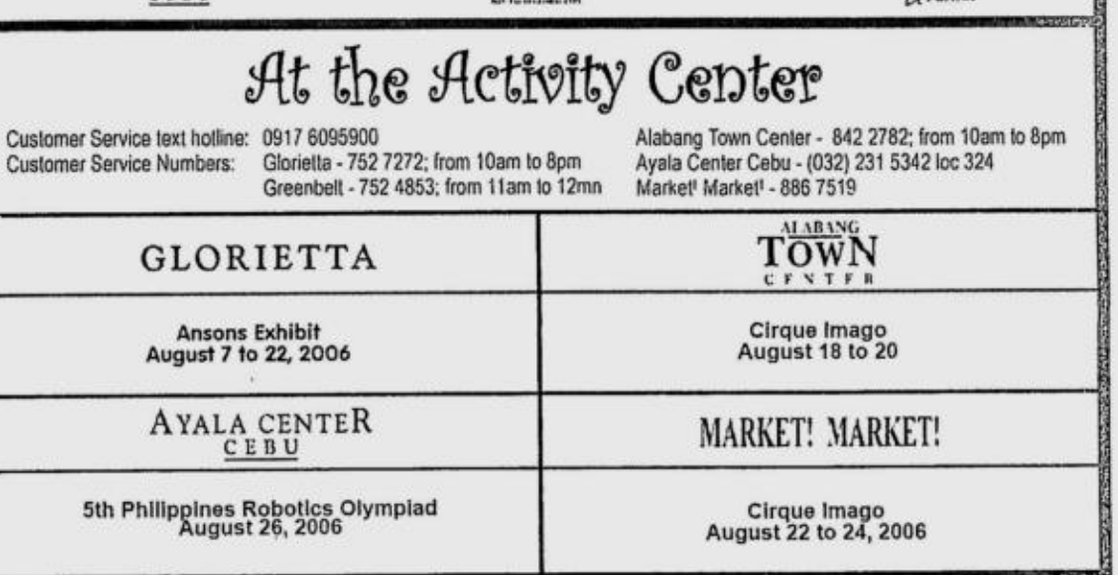
The 3rd German Silent Film Festival
presents

Tabu
with music by Bo Razon

on Tuesday, August 22, 2006,
at Greenbelt 1 Cinema 2, 8:00 PM

Ayala

Jazz Nights



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THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

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Uma Thurman to the rescue

"MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND" TOPBILLS THE luscious Uma Thurman as a nerdy gallery employee who leads a secret life as a superheroine named G-Girl. All of her superpowers sure come in handy in helping many people but they are of little use in her private life.

In fact, when she's alone in her apartment at night, our heroine weeps the plaintive tears of the misunderstood, and the unloved.

Into her bleak personal life now enters a similarly loveless man (Luke Wilson) who's in a blue funk because he's just had his heart broken into a million pieces by his domineering former girlfriend.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

The last thing he needs is to get involved with another domineering woman, who's neurotic and an all-powerful superheroine, to boot. But that's exactly what happens to him, and it isn't long before the shocked young man wants out of the relationship.

That's when G-Girl flips her wig, and gives her faithless love a really hard time.

She sets her homicidal sights on his pet fish—and has his apartment invaded by a huge shark with as many teeth as his ex-girlfriend has neurosis.

Premise

The movie's main premise is fun, but it runs out of comic steam after a while, so a villain is introduced in the person of an arch nemesis who turns out to have been Thurman's character's first boyfriend, before she was transformed into G-Girl by a seething, smouldering rock from outer space.

Spurned by his now all-powerful love, he tries to get back at her by coming up with a plan to deprive her of her superpowers.

For his part, Wilson's character is given another gal pal who's much less neurotic than G-Girl, so he has a fallback option when the going really gets rough.

Spectacle

In fact, the option even leads to the spectacle of two superwomen initially fighting over Wilson, then joining forces to save the world—how about that?

These subplots do jazz up the movie's thin storyline, but they aren't particularly engrossing, so the movie has a hard time sustaining viewers' interest.

It's a good thing that the film stars Uma Thurman, be-

UMA/ D2

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9 KUBRADOR
10 OH MY GHOST

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5 KUBRADOR

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2 STORMBREAKER
3 UNITED 93
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1 OH MY GHOST
2 MORTUARY
3 SUKOB

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3 THE BREAK UP
4 OH MY GHOST

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2 ANT BULLY

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2 CLICK
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4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT-2

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2 OH MY GHOST
3 ANT BULLY
4 RESERVED

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2 ANT BULLY
3 OH MY GHOST
4 TAKE THE LEAD

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(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
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2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
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1 OH MY GHOST
2 ANT BULLY
3 SUKOB
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2

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1 JUST M Y LUCK / ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 OH MY GHOST

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2 OH MY GHOST

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1 TAMARA
2 WILD ORCHIDS

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2 MULATA
3 LIGAYA PANTASYA NG BAYAN
4 WILD ORCHIDS

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2 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
3 TAMARA
4 SUKOB
5 OH MY GHOST

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Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41
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THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 PG13 1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05
DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10,10:30
AMERICAN DREAMZ PG13 1:35,3:50,6:05, 8:20,10:30
CLICK PG13 1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00
MORTUARY R13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND R13 1:35,3:45,5:55, 8:05,10:15
MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898 1440/41
MATINEE PHP 111.00 – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – MONDAY-FRIDAY

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DOLBY DIGITAL
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 1:05, 3:35 R-13
AMERICAN DREAMZ 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
CLICK 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:05 PG-13
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 R-13
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
For inquiries, call 687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE-MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 10:40, 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:20 R-13
CINEMA 2 MORTUARY 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:20, 10:35 R-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a din(e)tertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 AMERICAN DREAMZ 10:30, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:35 PG-13
CINEMA 4 CLICK 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:20 PG-13
CINEMA 5 SUPER EX-GIRLFFRIEND 10:30, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10 R-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
AUG. 17,18,24,25 & 31 GARY V 8:00PM
AUG. 26, 2006 NONOY ZUNIGA 8:00PM
TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
EVERY MONDAY DANCE NIGHT 7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY CERRUDO CLASSICO 8:00PM
AUG. 24-26, 2006 DAVID POMERANZ 9:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116
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MTRCB PG-13 CHILDREN BELOW 13 YRS. OLD WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED IF ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR ADULT
Rufa Mae Quinto Marvin Agustin
Paolo Contis Carlos Agassi
Uma Khouny & Jose Manalo
introducing Sugar
OH MY GHOST!
A film by Tony Y. Reyes, dgpi
OctoArts Films Presentation

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1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND MTRCB R-13 12.40, 3.00, 5.20, 7.40, 10.00
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA MTRCB PG-13 12.00, 2.30, 5.00, 7.30, 10.00
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 MTRCB R-13 12.00, 5.00, 10.00 AMERICAN DREAMZ MTRCB PG-13 2.30, 7.30
4 CLICK MTRCB PG-13 12.00, 2.30, 5.00, 7.30, 10.00
PREMIERE THEATRE ANT BULLY MTRCB GP 12.40, 3.00, 5.20, 7.40, 10.00
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
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(EXCEPT FOR DEVIL WEARS PRADA AND MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND)
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1. Know the truth about *jueteng*, the illegal numbers game.
2. GINA PAREÑO gives the best performance of her career.
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4. It was the unanimous choice of the FIPRESCI, the international film critics body, as Best Film in Competition at the 28th Moscow International Film Festival and the 8th OSIAN Cine Fan Festival of Asian Cinema. in New Delhi, India.
5. It won Best Picture and Best Actress at the 8th OSIAN Cine Fan Festival of Asian Cinema.
6. The Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB) graded it A, the 1st for 2006.
7. It is officially selected to screen in the 50th London Film Festival, 51st Valladolid International Film Festival, 31st Toronto International Film Festival, 11th Pusan International Film Festival, 20th Hawaii International Film Festival, 30th Sao Paulo International Film Festival, 25th Vancouver International Film Festival, 33rd Brussels Independent Film Festival, 27th Thessaloniki International Film Festival, 6th Mumbai Asian Film Festival, 7th Rome Asiatica Film Mediale and then 2nd Antalya Eurasian Film Festival
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MLR Films presents
GINA PARENO
KUBRADOR
a film by JEFFREY JETURIAN
R-13

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